The Long Island FISHERMAN

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JULY 20th, 1978 | Volume 13, Number 29 | 13th Year of Publishing | FIFTY-CENTS

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 13, NO. 29 JULY 20, 1978

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COMING NEXT WEEK:
FIRST AID

About the Cover—

It's getting to be that time to catch big chopper blues on plugs and bunker in the Long Island Sound. To find out how to do it, read *Cornering the Blues* by Don Millus on page 24.

Photo by Milford Camera

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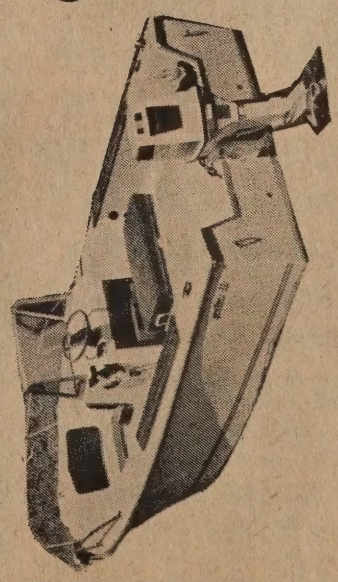

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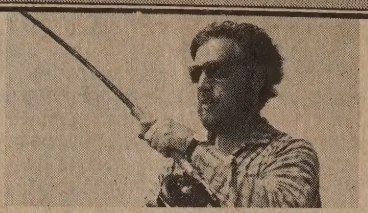

FIVE YEARS WITHOUT REINFELDER

It has been five years since friend Al Reinfelder fished around the bend. I can conjure up his smiling face as clearly as if I had seen him yesterday. I can see him standing before the Massachusetts Striped Bass Association with fire in his eyes and voice. He is spouting statistics on how many stripers foolhardy man is killing uselessly. He cares deeply, and his manner and concern is contagious.

Al was a spark in the night who foresaw before the rest of us. His caring kindled what is today's awareness of our striper management problem, and our knowing just how valuable this bass resource is to our heritage, as well as our pocketbooks. While we have a long way yet to go, I think Al would be proud of what we've done.

While reports that the Chesapeake is loaded with fry from both the 1976 and 1977 spawn filter north, we learn that the Hudson is crawling with small fish. Stripers are catching on like wildfire in freshwater. Scientists, conservationists, and fishermen sat down together and agreed to work out a management plan. Politicians are arguing about the resource. Authors are filling books, magazines and legislative reports with facts and misinformation. Bills are being drafted to bring the striper under some branch of the law that can protect or manage the species. Sage men such as yourself, Hal Lyman, John Cole and scores of others are compiling intelligent information and thinking out sound courses. I'm optimistic about the future of these fish, and I thank Al Reinfelder for waking us up.

I think he would be proud of himself and us. He has succeeded, I think, in what was one of his most precious goals. Stripers will survive.

His boys grow into fine young men, and like the rest of us, his wife and family carry on well. In his short life, he accomplished a greal deal. Ten and fifty years from now I'll be able to see his face as clearly as if I had seen him yesterday, and I will smile. I thank God that such a gentle man lived, and that I knew and loved him.

SPIDER ANDRESEN
Salt Water Sportsman Magazine

We agree with you, Spider, and have often wondered ourselves what Al would have thought of the striped bass situation today if hadn't met with the unfortunate canoeing accident five years ago that took his life. For those of our readers that don't know of Al and the visionary that he was, we have reprinted one of his classic articles, of which there were many, in this issue. On page 19 is "The Nantucket Striped Bass Preserve," that first appeared in L.I.F. in the late 1960's...as the reader will discover, Al was a conservationist more than a decade before his time. **Scott S.**

SHOULD HAVE COME DOWN HARDER ON SHARK CRITICS

The editorial and article which you authored re: Capt. John Sweetman, was a masterful piece of journalism. However, I am terribly disturbed by the humane manner in which you criticized the "Holier than thou" critics. I firmly believe a little more pounding of salt in the right place would prevent diarrhea of the mouth.

I just sent a letter to Mr. David Willmott, editor of the Suffolk Life News re: his biased editorial of the incident. Probably a very nice person, but he doesn't know his dorsal from a clasper.

I do not know Capt. Sweetman or his son, but I would like to congratulate them in the professional manner that they conducted themselves in. A credit to the profession. C'mon Capt. Frank, records were made to be broken. What a dull world this would be without competition. Personally, I hope it was 40 feet long. **Capt. Irv Levine, "Big Red"-"North Star," Oakdale.**

THE GREAT WHITE SHARK

I certainly don't condone Frank Mundus' harpooning of basking sharks, but how do you condone the harpooning of great white sharks? The great white sharks apparently come to the waters off of Montauk to give birth to their young. They're not here to devour boat captains and th their customers.

Does John Sweetman think he deserves a humanitarian award because "he doesn't have the heart" to shoot sharks? Instead, Captain Sweetman merely harpoons the great white shark and lets it suffer for 13-14 hours. Isn't harpooning an animal one of the most cruel things a person can do to a creature?

Give Frank Mundus some credit—at least he shoots the sharks and ends the suffering as quickly as possible. Secondly, he doesn't "waste" the basking sharks—he probably feeds a million sea creatures with that chum.

What was John Sweetman going to do with his great white shark? Eat it? After hundreds of pictures and tons of publicity, he would remove the jaws and be left with 5,000 lbs. of the rotting remains of one of the most magnificent animals in the sea.

Lastly, I would like to say that I have fished with Mundus, Sweetman and Sundberg and, in my opinion, Frank Mundus puts them to shame. **Frank Retacco, Scarsdale, N.Y.**

We really hate to get into this argument because we know it's a

losing proposition...but we'll give it our best. First off, we do not condone the killing of any fish or animal unless there is a justifiable reason. In regards to the harpooning of a great white shark, we submit the following as "justifiable" reasons: 1. The captain of a boat is paid to get fish and makes his livelihood from doing so; 2. A great white shark is not a defenseless animal by any means; 3. The economic value of a Great White Shark about 30 feet in length would be in excess of $20,000, and 4. The shark had more than an even chance, as evidenced by the fact that the shark won.

To argue against such justification would require one to resort to the "Bambi" arguments—that animals (and fish) think, feel, and react as humans, and therefore should not be killed under any circumstances—to which we don't agree. **Scott Simons**

SEN. PATRICK MOYNIHAN SUPPORTS OUR NOMINEE

Dear Mr. Reina: Thank you for your letter of June 27, 1978 suggesting Mr. Scott Simons as one of New York State's at-large representatives on the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fisheries Council.

I have written to the Department of Commerce in support of Mr. Simons' nomination, and I am hopeful that he will receive this appointment. I am grateful to you for bringing him to my attention. **Daniel Patrick Moynihan, United States Senator.**

NORMAN LENT WRITES SEC. KREPS

Dear Secretary Kreps: The terms for New York's At-Large Representatives to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Fisheries Council expire in August of 1978 and I respectfully request that you give Mr. Scott Simons your most careful consideration for an appointment. Governor Carey has nominated Mr. Simons and I wholeheartedly agree that he is uniquely qualified for the responsibilities of such an assignment.

Mr. Simons has, over the years, developed keen insight into the importance of proper management of marine life off our coasts. As a recreational fisherman himself, and also as editor of "The Long Island Fisherman," he has first hand knowledge and experience with the thoughts and concerns of the 2.5 million saltwater recreational fishermen in New York State.

Inasmuch as there are 46 commercial representatives and only 14 recreational representatives (none of whom is from New York State), I believe Mr. Simons' appointment would lend a needed dimension to the Council's work.

I trust you will support the man endorsed by the elected officials of the State of New York and appoint Mr. Scott Simons to the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Council. **Norman F. Lent, Member of Congress.**

THOMAS DOWNEY ENDORSES SCOTT

Dear Secretary Kreps: It has come to my attention that you will soon be appointing members to the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Council. I would like to take this opportunity to endorse Mr. Scott J. Simons for membership on the Council. Mr. Simons, a nominee of New York's Governor Carey, is currently the editor of The Long Island Fisherman. This widely read and respected journal has been serving recreational fishermen in the Long Island area for the past decade. In his position as editor, Mr. Simons has been a strong advocate for responsible coastal management from the recreational fisherman's perspective. He would be an excellent addition to the Council, and I hope you will give his candidacy careful consideration.

I have also enclosed a letter from charter boat Captain, George Roman, endorsing Mr. Simons' candidacy. I hope that you will consider Captain Roman's comments about Mr. Simons and Council representation for New York's recreational fishermen as you make your appointment decisions. Thank you for your kind consideration. **Thomas J. Downey, Member of Congress.**

Pass It On...

ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA SPORT FISHING SURVEY

The sport fishing survey of the NMFS Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Program resumed for its fourth year in early March. The primary purpose of the survey is to obtain the best estimate of the total number of school bluefin caught each May through October by the thousands of sport fishing boats from North Carolina to southern Massachusetts. Catch and effort data on the sport fishery, as well as data collected on the sizes and age classes of the bluefin tuna caught and some biological sampling, provide much needed inforation to aid in the management of this popular sport fishery.

During March and April, the 300 mile area of the New York and New Jersey coastline covered by this survey was canvassed, and the landing lists and maps of all marinas and docks in the area were updated. Contact was resumed with tuna clubs and marina operators between Cape May, New Jersey and Montauk, New York. The Virginia area maps and landing lists will be updated early in June.

The following is a list of personnel who will be working on the sport fishing survey, with telephone numbers where they can be reached:

Mark Holliday will be the Field

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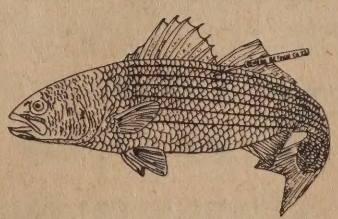

Texas Instruments **is conducting an environmental study to determine the survival, movements and population size of the striped bass in the Hudson River. An estimated 3000 striped bass will be tagged from March through June with $10 or $5 tags. *Texas Instruments* will pay a cash reward for each tag returned. To obtain your reward and detailed information on your fish, return the tag along with the date, method and specific location of capture to:**

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Attention: *Tag Reward*

Coordinator again this year. He will cover the Montauk, New York area on part of the weekend and (until July) the Babylon area on Saturday or Sunday. All ports between Montauk and Babylon will be visited weekly. Mark can be reached at (516) 299-2427. Jerry Morreale will be based in Freeport from June to September and will use Charvins Fishing Station in that port as a contact marina (516) 378-8748. John Waldman will be the Babylon port sampler. He will also cover all ports at the eastern end of Long Island. The contact marina for Babylon Port Sampler will be Augie's Bait and Tackle Shop (516) 669-9837.

In New Jersey, Robert Gillespie will be the Atlantic City port sampler, between June and September. He will cover the ports south and some to the north of Atlantic City, and will use Farley's State Marina for contact purposes (609) 348-2292. Manasquan will be covered in July and August by Jim Gilpatrick; he will use Zuber's Sea Coast Basin as a marina contact (201) 528-6141 and will canvas New Jersey ports around Manasquan and to the north.

In Virginia, Bob Fulton will cover Rudee Inlet in Virginia Beach from late May until the end of July. He can be reached at Virginia Beach Fishing Center (804) 422-5700. During June and July, Jim Cowan will survey the Lynnhaven Inlet area on weekends and can be reached at D & M Marina (804) 481-7211. Bob and Jim will survey the Wachapreaque and Chincoteague areas on Saturdays or Sundays.

A part-time sampler is planned to record bluefin tuna catches in Ocean City, Maryland, and Indian River and Lewes, Delaware, on weekends during July and August.

Doctor Phyllis Cahn, Chairman of the Marine and Environmental Science Department at C.W. Post College, is the Principal Investigator of the survey, under contract to the National Marine Fisheries Service. For information, and to report any catch data, call (516) 299-2427. If the office is closed, leave a message or any catch information on the recorder, and we will contact you as soon as possible. Your help is valuable and will be greatly appreciated.

1978 U.S. BLUEFIN TUNA REGULATIONS

The revised Federal Regulations on fishing vessels subject to the jurisdiction of the United States are scheduled to be published in the Federal Register on June 21.

This is a brief and partial explanation of the Regulations:

"school tuna" of **14 to 115 lbs.** round weight,

"giant tuna" of **more than 300 lbs.** round weight.

Bluefin tuna of less than 14 lbs. and of 115-300 lbs. may not legally be fished for, and if caught, may be retained only under specified conditions.

BLUEFIN TUNA TAG & RELEASE PLANS FOR 1978

Increased tagging effort by sport fishermen is encouraged this year for both school and giant bluefin. The Southeast Fisheries Center (SEFC) will furnish tags to interested individuals. A tagging permit is required for giant bluefin which may be obtained by writing to Bluefin Tagging, Southeast Fisheries Center (NMFS), 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL. 33149.

In order to promote the return of Atlantic bluefin tuna tags, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), 75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149, allows a $5 reward for each NMFS tag returned with the following appropriate information: tag number, species, date, location, gear, finder's name and address, and size (round weight, and fork length—measure from the snout to the fork of the caudal fin). The NMFS sends the finder of the tag the release information and also notifies the individual who tagged and released the fish, giving the recapture information.

In addition, the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), of which the U.S. is a member country, holds annual lotteries to promote the return of tags from tunas and tuna-like species from the Atlantic Ocean. Each spring two drawings of recovered tags are held. One of these is for tropical tunas, and the other for other tunas and tuna-like species (including bluefin).

DE MAIO RESPONDS TO BASS LETTERS

In the past several weeks in the Chum Lines I have read, with much resentment, what a handful of part-time fishermen think should be done in regards to legislating striped bass. Now they are fighting amongst themselves. That's the limit!

Why don't you part-timers give up your secure jobs and go to sea everyday to make a living. Live with the uncertainty, the hardship, and the frustrations, then you will have earned the right to open your big mouths and give us all advice.

The 26 inch limit bill stinks! Most people are buying it with an attitude of any law is better than no law. What the new bill does is completely knock the commercial man out of business. It also takes away the sport of many anglers who would normally take a few small bass for the dinner table, such as Mr. W. E. Brookens of Ossining, N.Y.

What the law does not do is stop your part-time fishermen from ripping off another $5000 a year from the sale of striped bass. All you Civil Service employees, tackle testers and fat cats with expensive boats under them and greed in them. My attitude is equality for all. No sale! Make bass a game fish. Put a catch limit on them and that's that. **Capt. John DeMaio.**

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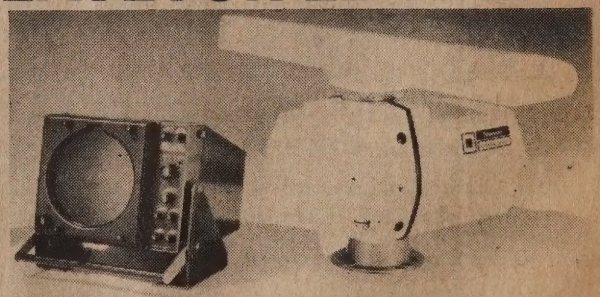

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Contests & Tournaments

BTC INVITATIONAL TUNA & MARLIN TOURNY

The Babylon Tuna Club, in conjunction with the Village of Babylon, will again hold its Invitational Tuna and Marlin Tournament and Charity Fish Sale on July 29 and 30, at the Village Dock, located at the foot of Fire Island Avenue.

This year in keeping with efforts to conserve the tuna, only fish weighing 14 lbs. or more will be eligible for prizes, with the smaller fish being tagged and released. As in the past, commencing at three o'clock each afternoon, the fish brought to the dock will be sold to the public with the proceeds being donated to the Babylon Auxiliary of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children.

This has long been a premier event on the Island's South Shore, with boats coming from as far away as New Jersey to compete for the many prizes and awards. A special prize being awarded this year to the angler catching the largest tuna, will be the Nicholas Racanelli Memorial Trophy which will consist of a Penn International 50 reel and matching custom made rod which is being donated by the Racanelli family in memory of Nicholas, a well-known Long Island builder and sportsman who berthed his 38 foot "Jimini" at Montauk. The winner will also have his name inscribed on a perpetual trophy which will be on public display. Any inquiries should be directed to the Tournament Director: George Koenig, 23 Gamecock Lane, Babylon, NY 11702, (516) 661-6243.

MASS. BASS & BLUE DERBY WIDE OPEN

The Bass and Blue Data Derby sponsored by the Massachusetts Alliance of Saltwater Sportsmen which opened April 1, will run until November 15. The derby is open to all waters of the Continental United States and the entry fee is only $5.

Data sheets are sent to all entrants to fill out and return to the Alliance for correlation. This will help us to better understand the distribution of the striped bass stocks. All entrants are urged to release all fish other than those needed for personal use.

First prize last year, in both the bass and bluefish division went to Robert Sloane, Jr., of Winthrop, Ma. The bass weighed 36 lbs. and the bluefish weighed 13½ lbs. Second and third place bass weighed 25 lbs. and 24½ lbs., respectively.

First prize in both divisions is a $200 U.S. Savings Bond; second prize a $50 U.S. Savings Bond in each category and third prize, a $25 U.S. Savings Bond.

Although many fish were caught last year that weighed well over these limits, as the saying goes: "You have to enter to win!" For further info, write to: Mass. Alliance of Saltwater Sportsmen, P.O.Box 45, South Attleboro, Ma. 02703.

New Products

NEW LURE FROM M & M TACKLE CO.

M & M Fishing Tackle Company recently announced the introduction of a new lure called The Belly Dancer. The lure is made out of super tough latex rubber. It is meant to imitate a squid. The Belly Dancer comes in two and three ounce sizes, in bright fluorescent colors. A durable stainless steel bead chain is used to attach the hook. Check out this lure at your favorite tackle store.

Depend on DuPont Stren®.

When you have Du Pont *Stren* monofilament on your reel, you have everything a fishing line can give you...all in one line.

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Try a spool of *Stren*. Clear/Blue, bright Golden or high contrast Orange. When the blues are out there, make every cast count.

IT'S THE ONLY LINE YOU NEED. DUPONT

FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

Did You Know?

DID YOU KNOW? That on May 26, 1977, Frank Smith of Bermuda City, Arizona, caught a 59 lb. 12 oz. striped bass about sixteen miles below the Davis Dam on the Colorado River? He took that fish on a Rebel plug. This bass represents a new freshwater record for striped bass on rod and reel.

HOW DID BASS GET THERE? Between 1962 and 1964, the Arizona and California Fish and Game Departments stocked 83,000 fingerling bass and 950 one-year-old bass into the river. The fish readily adapted to their new home and have reproduced successfully.

WHY DO THEY GROW SO BIG AND SO FAST? A study of the fish that was caught by Smith revealed that the fish was thirteen-years-old! Now, according to the best information that we can glean from studies of the growth of stripers that migrate up and down the East Coast, it would take more than fifteen years and probably closer to twenty, for a bass to reach such mammoth proportions. It is curious that these fish grow so rapidly. Incidentally, this is not the only big fish to come out of the Colorado River. On May 4, 1976, Red Kunkle took a 50 lb. 4 oz. bass, and on June 27, 1976, Robert Stahl caught a striper that weighed in at 52 lbs. 8 oz. One of the reasons for the rapid growth may be the abundance of certain types of forage fish. Certainly, this has proven to be the case in other freshwater impoundments where bass have taken a foothold such as the Santee Cooper Reservoir system. However, it is worth considering that in the landlocked environment, the bass need not migrate across large expanses of water, nor do they have to chase bait fish up and down the Coastline. What is being suggested then, is that more of the energy value of the food that the bass consume goes towards growth among freshwater stripers; whereas in saltwater, there is more energy expended on migration and prey searching.

AVOIDING ACCUSATIONS OF A FISH STORY! Now that the actual weight has been given, let me point out that Smith's bass was not weighed in for a number of hours after the catch was made. Fish lose up to ten percent of their weight within a few hours of being taken from the water. A wildlife manager for the Arizona Fish and Game Department, Jim Warnecke, measured the fish at the time of weigh-in. He reported that the bass was fifty-six-inches-long and had a girth of thirty-three-and-a-half inches. Warnecke figures that the female bass could have easily weighed sixty-six or sixty-seven pounds if the fish were weighed in promptly and if the fish were caught a little later when her ovaries would have been ripe!

BLUEFISH, ANY TIME YOU WANT THEM! Scientists have known for many years that bluefish are not seasonal residents in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and south to Florida. However, catches—particularly from the surf—have been seasonal. But fishermen from the Outer Banks, North Carolina, report that bluefish are hitting the surf zone all year round now. Perhaps the choppers don't go into their act everyday, but solid fishing is a possibility at any time.

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT SHARKS? Fishing for sharks used to be a tremendous sport in the waters of the middle Atlantic States until fifteen years ago. Thus, there's nothing really new about the recent shark fishing craze that has swept the saltwater fishing fraternity. However, interest in shark fishing declined in the late 1950s presumably because declining bunker populations forced the sharks to hunt elsewhere for food and thus, there weren't many sharks available and sportsmen lost interest.

COMMERCIAL SHARK FISHING AFFECTED TOO! Things do change. In a world where technology is constantly forcing all of us to adapt to new products and new sources of old products, the commercial shark fishing industry has been a victim. Sharks used to be an important commercial commodity. Shark livers were used as a source of Vitamin A, but when a means was discovered to produce the vitamin synthetically, the need for shark livers declined dramatically. Shark skins were used in woodworking because the unique abrasive properties of the skin made them an ideal material for developing a highly polished surface. Shark skins continue to be used as a type of leather, but not extensively; Oriental menus call for shark parts, especially fins, and since the success of the film "Jaws," shark teeth have become an important jewelry item.

300 MILLION YEARS OLD! Not an individual specimen, of course, but sharks have been swimming in the seas for about that long. They are primitive creatures and they do not have a bony skeleton. Instead, they have a flexible cartilage skeleton. Thus, sharks suffer considerable and rapid damage when they are out of water for any short period of time. The flexible cartilage cannot support the organs properly and they begin to shift and settle. The weight of organs pressing on other organs can produce considerable damage. Primitive sharks lack a swim bladder and they also lack muscular gill covers. Thus, they cannot stop swimming. Should the sharks stop swimming, they will sink since they lack an air-filled swim bladder to maintain neutral buoyancy. Sharks (with the exception of nurse sharks) will also suffocate since muscular-controlled gill covers are lacking they cannot draw water into and push water out of their mouths without swimming.

DID YOU KNOW? Sharks reproduce by two methods: some lay eggs, but others give birth to live young that can swim efficiently from the moment of birth. But did you know that some of the sharks that give birth to live young can produce as many as fift young sharks in a single gestatio period?

NOT FUSSY! In an age of skyrocketing food prices, the sharks have a distinct advantage over humans. They will eat almost anything depending upon the whims that grip them. The following items have been found in the stomachs of sharks. Judging from the reported good health of these specimens, the debris did not seem to have any harmful effects. The items included: soda bottles, tin cans, pieces of clothing (one has to wonder about the implications of finding clothing in the stomachs of sharks); boat propellers (that offers even more interesting possibilities), chum pots, anchors, fishing sinkers, and waterlogged pieces of wood.

OFFICIAL—BUT WE HAVE OUR DOUBTS. According to the official presentation of most marine biologists only six species of shark visit our inshore waters regularly. These are the common hammerhead, the Atlantic mako, the sand shark, the smooth dogfish, the spiny dogfish, and the

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sandbar shark. According to officialdom, species like the white shark, the blue shark and the tiger shark, are not supposed to be inshore. That may be comforting to tourist businesses, but it doesn't appear to be the whole truth. We had better tell the people who made "Jaws" that there are no white sharks in shallow water. Better still, we better tell Frank Mundus that he really didn't catch a white shark and that a gill netter we once encountered did not have two white sharks tangled in his net. I'm sure that these folks would be relieved to know this! Tell surf fishermen that the shark with the big eyes looking up at him from the moonlit water was not a blue shark. It couldn't be—after all, isn't the water too shallow?

DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT WEAKFISH? The weakfish is a very prolific fish. If environmental factors are favorable and allow for the fertilized eggs to hatch and grow, it is easy to understand why, when the weakfish cycle is up, there are weaks everywhere. A female of about twenty inches can produce about 1.5 to 2.0 million eggs at one time. If she spawns more than once (which appears to be the case), then a female of this size can contribute many millions of eggs to the pot!

FASTEST GROWTH OCCURS LATER! We normally associate the most rapid rate of growth with a juvenile condition. However, no one has told the weakfish. In terms of weight gained, weakfish enter a period of the most rapid growth rate after they are twenty inches long. Up until they are twenty inches, weakfish add about 0.15 pounds per inch. However, from a size of about twenty inches until beyond thirty-six inches, they add 0.7 pounds per inch.

MORE THAN ONE WEAKFISH? Of course, we know that there are two species of weakfish: the northern weakfish and the spotted or southern weakfish. The two species mix throughout much of the southern range of the northern weakfish and there have been reports from time to time of fishermen in our waters catching the spotted species. But within the species **Cynoscion regalis**, that we called northern weakfish, there may be several sub-groups or sub-species. There is some evidence to suggest that this is the case, although the data is far from conclusive. However, it has been noted that the growth rate of weakfish varies and can be attributed not only to variations in diet, seasons, and locations, but also to potential differences of sub-groups within the species. There are also differences in key anatomical measurements, but they are not highly significant. The sub-groups mix, which will make the proof of this theory difficult. Studies of the blood chemistry of the weakfish at different places at different times should help to resolve the controversy. All we need is for somebody to cough up the bucks to finance the study.

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NATIONAL SCENE

NEWS & NOTES ON THE WORLD OF FISHING
with Al Ristori

Licensing Controversy Hot Issue In Many States

Every year, the issue of the saltwater fishing license pops up in New York and other coastal states. California has long had a saltwater license and has used it to keep close track of recreational catches in that state. Texas also requires a license for saltwater fishing, but it's the same as the freshwater license and gives the angler the right to fish in any of the State's waters at an incredibly low rate. Saltwater fishing for salmon is licensed in Oregon and Washington, and there is a saltwater license provision on the books in Louisiana that is largely ignored. Other than the exceptions noted, American anglers enjoy their saltwater fishing without licenses—and with few regulations.

Though the Marine District has wanted a license for as long as I can remember, there has never been a really strong push for one in New York. Bills have been introduced by upstaters, and supported by upstate sportsmen, but nothing has ever come of them. The basic stumbling block has been an almost complete lack of support among coastal fishermen and a general feeling that the monies generated would be used only to support additional bureaucrats and biologists. A particular drawback was the close association of the State Conservation Department with commercial fisheries ever since Perry Duryea, Sr. was Conservation Commissioner during the Dewey Administration. Inevitably, when there was a confrontation between sport and commercial fishermen, the Department lined up on the side of the commercials. The net result was a complete distrust of that Department by marine anglers. At a sportsman's show about ten years ago, SOS passed out a questionnaire asking anglers' opinions on a number of subjects. One of the questions related to their opinion of the Marine District of the Conservation Department. As I remember it, over ninety percent had highly unfavorable opinions of the Department. Since then I've had the opportunity to fish in most of the other coastal states and never have I come across such a negative situation.

Fortunately, there has been a change for the better in the Marine Distict. Present Chief, Tony Taormina has made a sincere effort to reach an accommodation with sportsmen, and has encouraged development of the New York Sportfishing Council. If that organization becomes truly viable, it will provide a means for getting early input to the division on issues vital to sportsmen. Tony has been trying to resolve the problem of proliferating gill nets and, hopefully, the Legislture will see fit to do something before further damage occurs to both fishery resources and human beings. Perhaps the recent death of Thomas Loftus of Oakdale, after his boat became entangled in an unmarked 300-foot gill net in Great South Bay, will spur action in this area.

For years, responsible sportsmen on Long Island have urged the Division to come up with both a licensing plan and a justification for it. This has now been done and rational discussion of the issue can commence. Fortunately, the present proposal takes the realistic approach of permitting party and charter boats to obtain licenses which will permit their customers to fish without them. This is one of the big hang-ups that always surfaces when licenses are discussed.

Though sportsmens organizations have fought hard against license proposals in the past (as well they should have since no plan had been formulated for use of the funds), the dedicated marine angler probably wouldn't be too upset with a $5 fee for a year's fishing if he thought it might do even a little good. It is the casual fisherman who would be adversely affected by a license, and this had led to intense opposition not only from party and charter boat operators, but especially from the resort industry.

What good would a saltwater license do? Of course, there would be additional research, but other benefits might include launching ramps (New York must rank dead last among the states in this area) and artificial reefs. The greatest benefit wouldn't involve any project—it would be the dollars and cents realization that the sportsmen are paying the way, and that they'd better get a good deal more attention than they've ever gotten in the past! The additional number of license holders would also lead to matching funds from the Federal Dingell-Johnson Fund (a ten percent tax at the manufacturers level on most sport fishing equipment) and the Heritage Conservation Recreation Service Fund.

The selling of a saltwater license is difficult for a number of reasons. Many advocates take the simplistic position that just because licenses are required for freshwater fishing, the same should be true in saltwater. But ask any freshwater angler what he gets for his license and he probably won't mention research, launching ramps, artificial reefs (also effective in freshwater), or matching funds. What he will stress is protection and stocking: protection from commercial fishing in his waters (there are some limited exceptions to this on non-game species) and stocking of the game fish he wants to catch. In point of fact, little stocking of the warm water game fish (such as largemouth bass) that most anglers fish for is actually done, but the average angler isn't aware of that. The saltwater angler is not going to get the benefits his freshwater brethren get from their license fees. His waters are not going to be closed to commercial fishing; indeed, it will require a big change in the Division's attitude even to get any selective protection. He's also not going to get any stocking. This could be done, but no proof has been offered yet that it would make any difference in a salt water situation. Even beyond this, we must recognize that most marine species are migratory and, therefore, impossible to properly manage without cooperation from other states.

If the license issues becomes a serious one (and I doubt if that will happen until next year—after the elections), marine anglers should insist on two provisions. First, and most important, is that the monies derived and any matching funds received be dedicated, in order that the State or Department cannot divert them into other uses. Secondly, there should be a provision for citizen control of expenditures. In many other states, fish and game funds are controlled by councils made up of representatives of major organizations and interest groups. This system brings the citizen into the decision-making process through his peers and inspires a good deal more confidence than simply allowing bureaucrats to juggle the budget.

A major supporter of state marine fishing licenses is the Washington-based Sport Fishing Institute. Though I was responsible for delaying the adoption of their pro-licensing position a year ago, the rationale they provide deserves consideration. According to the Institute, "Licensing of marine anglers will, for the first time, permit them to develop their potential collective political clout. With the advent of the Regional Fishery Management Councils, charged to develop fishery management plans for all fish to be utilized within the 200 Mile fishery zone, there is a compelling need to develop scientifically-sound angling statistics. Without scientifically-acceptable data on the number of anglers, what they catch, and where they fish, etc., there is little likelihood that they will get their rightful share of the fish stocks in the future. Only licensing can provide the needed statistically-sound data sampling base. Without it, saltwater angling can pretty well expect to be crowded out of the picture over the next few decades.

With it, there is every reason to expect marine recreational fishing opportunity to grow, rather than diminish."

As a Council member, I agree with SFI's emphasis on the importance of good statistics. We are moving rapidly to require log books of party and charter operations, as well as from commercial fishermen. Surveys can give us reasonably accurate information on both the numbers of sport fishermen and their catches. The information which could be obtained from state licenses would be very helpful to us, but we're not counting on it. The key to ensuring that sport fishing requirements are taken into consideration is having adequate representation on the Council. While we don't win every battle, marine anglers get a fair shake on the Mid-Atlantic Council at present, and the possible future selection of Scott Simons would further improve that situation. Unfortunately, not every council has such a fair mix of interests.

One of the reasons I got into the license controversy at this point is because it's such a hot issue in other parts of the region—Delaware, Virginia, and New Jersey in particular. It's of particular concern near state boundaries, where the question of reciprocal rights must be addressed. At a meeting with representatives of most Virginia marine fishing clubs in Virginia Beach last month, the most important question they seemed to have on their minds was that of licensing. It took quite a bit of discussion to convince them that the councils aren't license-crazy, and that there is no imminent threat of our imposing a license on the average fisherman. As part of each management plan, we are issuing free permits to commercial fishermen and party and charter boat operators in order to get the log book information that is vital to our task. Though some members have proposed that anglers be required to obtain a free permit for statistical purposes, I expect that the NMFS estimate of $18,000,000-$20,000,000 for that project will put it to rest. The important point to keep in mind relative to the councils is that, unlike the states, we get our funding through legislation passed by Congress and have no need for funds from the public! If a paid license is going to come, it won't be from us.

One recent development may have more to do with bringing a marine fishing license closer to reality than anything that's happened in marine fisheries over the years. The triumph of Proposition 13 in California, and the general taxpayers' revolt across the country, is likely to result in more legislative pressure for "user taxes" to fund specific programs. Whether we like it or not, a marine fishing license may be shoved down our throat in the budget-cutting process. It would be a good idea to start thinking about what we can live with now! Your opinions will be welcomed.

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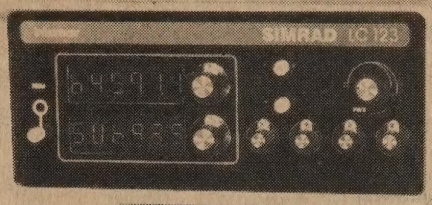

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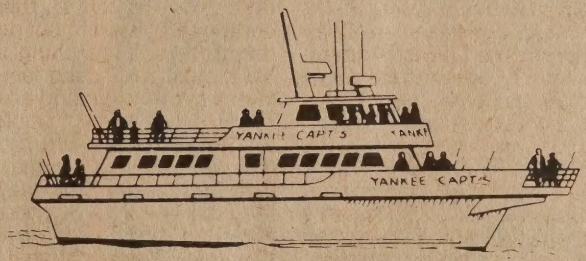

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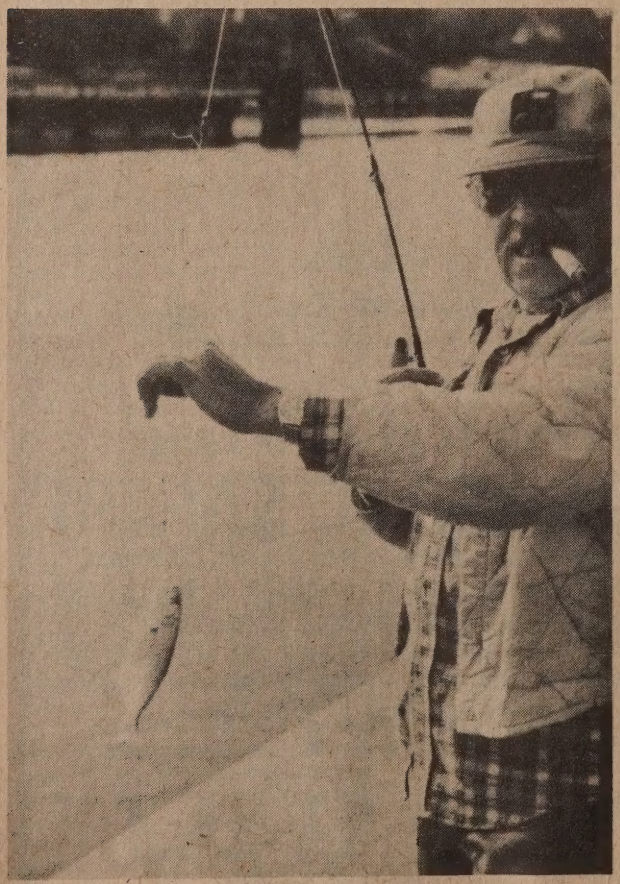
Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

SNAPPER FISHING

I am sure I'm rushing the snapper fishing season by two or three weeks, for actually good fishing for these scrappers doesn't get under way until just before mid-August. This is not to say you can't catch snappers right now if you try; certainly they are available for fishermen who want them, but I'm afraid those you catch now will leave much to be desired in size. But when it comes to fishing—and I don't care what kind it is—I'm a great guy for preparing everything beforehand. And this two or three week wait should be put to use by interested snapper fishermen. That way, nothing is left to chance. So you see—there's a method to my madness. If there's some method of which I'm not sure, or I find I've got to iron out some technique and leave nothing to chance, I like the freedom a little advance preparation gives me. I know one thing: I've saved many a fishing trip by doing a little beforehand planning. Especially has this been so when things did not work out exactly as planned. I've found from past experience that those fishermen who are apt to be most successful are the ones who copper all bets and leave absolutely nothing to chance. Truly, those who have need for a lamp supply it with oil.

Sure, I know some of you will say: "Geez, the guy is only going to do a little snapper fishing. What's the big deal?" Well, I hope you aren't one of these fellows, for when you negate any fishing to mediocrity, or feel that it is beyond contempt, you are securely laying the foundation for poor fishing practices. Whether you are out to catch snappers, cod, or what have you, proper preparation is necessary to become successful. You cannot rank the snapper on the bottom of the piscatorial ladder just because it isn't as large as the cod. No matter what kind of fishing is planned, the smart fisherman gives it his undivided attention. If you doubt this, check with any master fisherman and ask him to give you his views on what I've just said. If he doesn't agree, I'll quit the fishing game right now.



Advanced anglers also take advantage of the great sport that snappers afford.

I suppose the greatest snapper fans are kids. It has always been that way since I can remember. But this is not to say grown-ups do not get their kicks from some hot and heavy snapper fishing. One day last summer, I fished alongside one "youngster" who told me he had just celebrated his 89th Birthday the week before. He told me he was ten-years-old when he first began snapper fishing. Can you imagine anyone catching snappers every summer for almost eighty years! Lest you think this old-timer was decrepit, I had a hard time keeping up with him—I still have a sneaky feeling that despite his age, he outfished me. Now there must be something to snapper fishing to make a fisherman devote all those years to the sport.

And there is.

First of all is the low cost. For a couple of bucks you can purchase an ordinary bamboo snapper pole in any tackle shop. These come in one piece and take-apart two or three section jobs. I find the take-apart three-piece rods more convenient if you have to travel. When a length of ten pound mono is added (not more than two feet longer than the rod for best results), plus a #3 Bridgeport snapper hook, a plastic bobber, and a box of spearing or sand eels, that is all that's necessary to catch snappers in most places.

While this basic equipment is sure to produce snappers, most advanced fishermen have opted for light spinning tackle. With this, they can milk the sport to the nth degree. Baits or lures can easily be cast to likely-looking areas instead of waiting for the fish to work close enough to find bait on their own. For my money, I would sooner catch one snapper on a light spinning outfit than ten with a bamboo pole.

Snappers are suckers for properly cast and presented lures. I have had most of my success with small Sidewinders in mossbunker finish. Small Kastmasters, Hopkins, and Swedish Pimples have also put fish in my bucket. I find that for this type of fishing, the proper retrieve is most important; too fast and all you'll do is arouse the curiosity of the fish and get few strikes. It is exasperating to say the least, to see a half-dozen snappers following behind the lure, only to have them turn away near the end of the retrieve.

The most difficult thing to learn then is to find the necessary retrieve-speed and incorporate the proper action to the lure through experimentation. But once you find it, there will be no trouble receiving strikes at every cast. The only hitch here is that when you return the next day all set to commit mayhem on the snapper population, nine out of ten times what you learned the day before won't work. I don't know why this should be unless it has to do with the actions of the frenzied bait fish the snappers are feeding on, but I do know it is so more times than not. So if you plan on casting lures, expect to do your share of cussing and experimentation.

When casting bait such as spearing, sand eels, snapper strips, and squid, the fisherman has less difficulty inducing the fish to strike. I find here that a slow retrieve works best. Just allow the bait to sink a bit (five or six feet), then slowly turn the reel handle and you should have action. Many times, the fish will hit near the end of the retrieve. One thing of importance when bait fishing is to have a good supply along. Snappers are great bait stealers and no matter how proficient the fisherman, he seldom, if ever, hooks more than a percentage of all the fish that strike. Just as well. What could he possibly do with all those fish, anyway?

Unless you seine or net your own, the bait you buy will most likely be frozen. When this stuff thaws, it becomes soft after a half-hour or so. Sand eels are a bit more firmer when thawed, but they are soft enough so that the lightning-swift snapper has little difficulty removing it

from the hook.

Because of this, experienced snapper fishermen have mulled over the problem and come up with several ways to avoid over-feeding both the snapper and their own mental anguish. One method is to use an unsnelled snapper hook, preferably with a straight eye as opposed to one with an offset or turned-down eyes, and a #10 snap swivel in a dull or black finish to avoid competing with the bait for strikes. Snappers, like mackerel, dote on shiny objects, which leads to frustration for both the angler and the fish. The snap swivel should be tied to the main line with an Improved Clinch Knot for best results. (Incidentally, when tying lures to the main line at any time, always use this knot. Cumbersome overhand loops will detract from any lure's action.)

The shank of the loose hook, eye first, is run through the side of the spearing or medium-sized sand eel, beginning at a point about an inch above the tail. The hook eye is then brought out at the bait's mouth and placed on the snap swivel. Your bait will not only be secure, but it will lie along the hook shank in a natural-like manner and assure more certain hooking of those short-biters.

Another method is to purchase—or make—a snapper hook that has a small hook added to the shank. When the bait is placed properly on this type hook, it will lie along the shank straight out and the problem of bunched bait is minimized. Needless to say, bait with such a natural-like appearance will induce more strikes than one hanging off the hook in a mushy gob. Don't think this doesn't matter. Snappers—or any fish—are far from stupid, else they would have perished along with the Dodo. You've got to give fish what they want, when they want it, and the way they want it. There may be no Einsteins in the fish world, but it is only the poor fisherman who under-estimates the intelligence of God's sea creatures. For firsthand verification, ask the striper fisherman.

You will find snappers wherever there is fishable water. Some areas are better than others, perhaps, but it is a rare day when snapper fishermen fail to connect. In fact, I've never seen one.

You will find more action near piers and bulkheads where deep water—at least fifteen feet—is available than you will in shallow areas. This is not a hard, fast rule; but is usually so.

One of the best snapper locations I know is Shinnecock Canal. I don't say this because I happen to live nearby: it really is. As a kid I lived in Brooklyn, but thought nothing of making several snapper fishing trips each summer to this excellent fishing spot. The snappers seemed always to be more plentiful and certainly larger than those closer to home. It is the same way today.

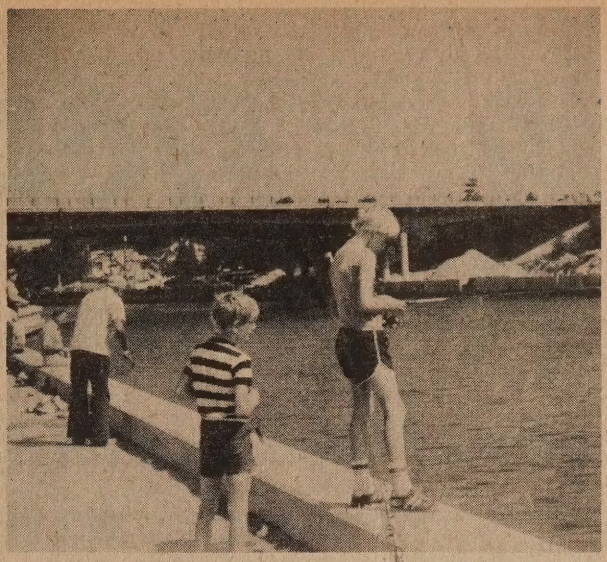
Especially is this a good fishing place for the fisherman equipped with light spinning tackle. Fishing is good when the locks are closed; but instead of packing up when the gates open—which condition makes most Canal fishing impossible for six hours due to the rushing tide—all one has to do is walk along the Canal to the Montauk Highway Bridge. Here one can cast out and let the current carry the bait under the bridge until the line straightens out. The hit will come at this instant. A snapper is almost assured with each cast.

This spot is particularly good in September when snappers reach twelve inches and better. I can truly say I've never caught more or larger snappers anywhere on Long Island than I have in Shinnecock Canal at the height of the season.

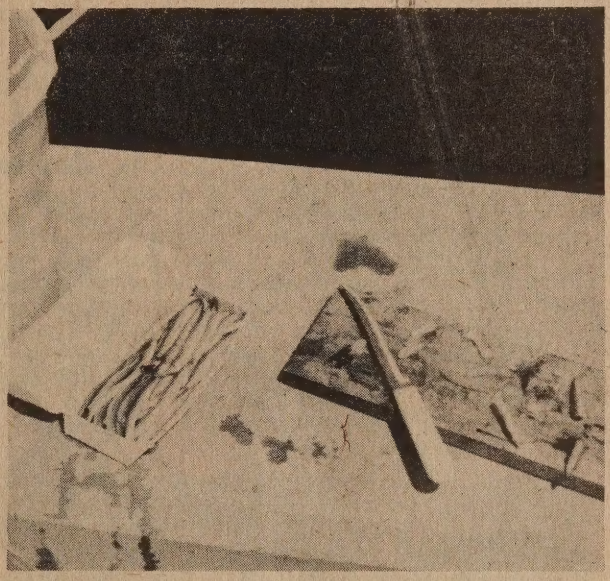
For the fellow in a small boat, all that's necessary is to anchor and get a little mossbunker—or cat food—chum overboard. Snapper will respond in minutes. You'll find more action when fishing bait in the chum line than you will with lures. Replenish the chum line when fish show signs of slowing down.

Just a word on the side. Snappers are plentiful and the temptation to keep more than needed is great. But there is no guarantee it will always be like this, so have a thought to the future. Particularly for the kids who are the true fans of snapper fishing. Let them enjoy themselves to the fullest, and let us do our part and return all those snappers we know in our hearts we have no use for.

Conserve the snapper!



Kids in every port are great snapper fans.



A box of sandeels (or spearing) will produce...

...a bucket of snappers like this!

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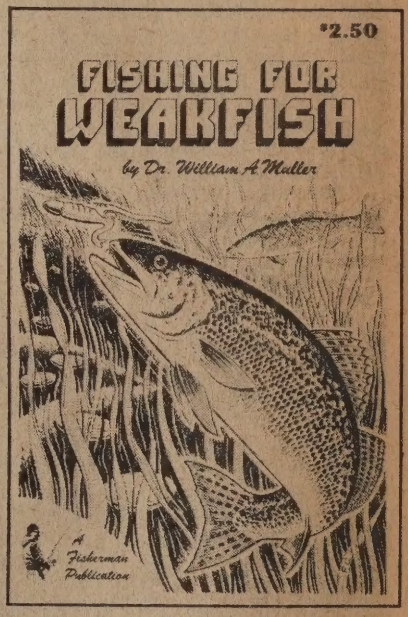

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Surf Side with John Fritz

Bottom Feeding BLUEFISH

The imperceptible movement of the rod tip resting in the sand spike caught the eye of the angler engaged in discussion with several other surf fishermen. A half-dozen quick strides brought the expectant fisherman to a ready position behind the rod. The light twitching of the rod tip continued for an added thirty seconds. If the bait had been worms and the time and place suitable for flounders, the rod action would seem appropriate. The bait was a four-inch slab of bunker and the quarry was big bluefish. After an agonizingly long period of time toying with the bait, the unseen predator savagely struck, causing the rod to arch heavily under the strain. In one quick movement the expectant angler snatched the rod from the spike, while vigorously rearing backwards in order to set the hook. Resistance was met, the hook embedded and the spirited battle was on. After several minutes of give-and-take struggle, the teen-sized blue was dragged unceremoniously onto the beach. The widespread conception of bluefish relentlessly attacking schools of bait must be put aside when fishing bottom. They can be as picky and finicky as a flounder with lockjaw and the angler who patiently waits to set the hook will beach more fish than his impatient companion.

Last fall the striper hopefuls fishing eels for bass in the Gilgo area found very few bass willing to take their offerings. All was not lost, for alligator blues found the eels to their liking and partially filled the gap vacated by the missing bass.

The normal bait when bottom fishing strictly for bluefish is bunker, mackerel, snapper or—with their resurgence this past year—lafayettes. The usual terminal gear is the fish finder rig with a large cork used to hold your bait off the bottom away from the pesky crabs—unless, of course, you are using eels when the cork can be dispensed with.

When using cut bait, wait until the fish strikes forcibly before setting the hook. Fishing with live eels is another matter, for all too often after a savage strike, the line is reeled in to find half an eel left on your hook. Expertise must be employed to allow the blue to take the hook and not just the best part of your eel.

Several methods can be tried which should increase your chance of success. One idea is to fish with a very loose drag, thereby allowing the fish to run with the eel. Let the blue engulf the whole eel (your guess is as good as mine) and when he starts his run, sock it to him! Do not try to tighten the drag now; just cup the spool with your free hand as you rear back on the rod. Once the fish is hooked, maintain pressure on the spool with your hand, while tightening down on the drag screw, at least until there is some amount of drag tension. The desired amount of drag can be applied later on in the engagement.

Another procedure is to allow the blue to feed at will while patiently waiting to set the hook at any extra strong pull on the line. On occasion, you'll come back on nothing but many times the strong movement of a stung bluefish will be your reward.

The cheapest practice, devised by a regular on the Gilgo waterfront, is to cut the eel into three pieces and use them as you would cut bait.

When the bluefish is allowed to swallow the bait, the hook is often embedded deep in its throat or stomach. All of you know of the blues' razor-sharp dentures which can slice through the heaviest mono with ease. Therefore, six or eight inches of wire leader is mandatory. The plastic coated wire preferred by many has one drawback in that it can become frayed after repeated encounters with bluefish teeth.

These leaders are easy to make when used with the metal sleeves and pliers sold for this specific purpose at most tackle stores. Make sure that when purchasing the wire—which by the way is furnished in twenty-five foot coils—that you obtain the correct size sleeves for the wire that you intend to use.

The manufacture of these leaders is simple, now. The sleeve is slipped onto the wire; then take the end of the wire and insert it back into the sleeve, forming a loop of the desired dimension. Make sure that the end of the wire is pushed all the way through the sleeve so that the tip is flush with the end of the sleeve. Then crimp the sleeve with the pliers and you'll have a serviceable leader.

(Continued on page 48.)

Blues taken on eels, the deformed fish at right.

Twelve-pound bluefish taken by Sal Caccavale on an eel.

INSHORE FISHING

with Scott J. Simons

It's the Little Things That Count!

One of the most difficult problems I have had since starting to write for **The Fisherman** over six years ago, has been trying to convey how important the "little things" are to our success in fishing. Novices should watch and study the habits of the expert and experienced fishermen who all seem to have the same idiosyncrasies for being perfectionists: everything must just be so-so, and there's no such thing as something being "good enough" ... it must be **perfect**, and nothing less will do. So it's always standard operating procedure to constantly be checking tackle and equipment, as well as continually making minor adjustments to fishing techniques to compensate for changing conditions...because as every pro knows, it's the little things that count. In case you're wondering what brought about the little speech I just forced you to read, it was the experiences I had a few weeks ago while bass fishing at Montauk, where I now live. It started with a call I got from John DeMaio, Captain of the popular charterboat **Vivienne**. "Hey Scott, do you have any 8/0 hooks for jigs?" John asked. I told him to hold on a minute while I checked the tackle in my garage that my wife lovingly refers to as "that pile of crap" I'm always telling her I'm going to put into some semblance of order "tomorrow." In any case, I didn't have any 8/0 hooks—at least not where I could find them before the end of the fishing season. So I came back to the phone and told John no dice, and asked him what he wanted 8/0 hooks for.

"Well, we did pretty good on the morning charter and took about a dozen nice bass, but we also dropped three or four and missed a few hits. I figured that by changing over to 8/0 hooks on the jigs, we won't lose as many and will hook up more often." We both use Ava and diamond jigs, as well as the sand eel that John has popularized. The Ava jigs come in four weights with the following hook sizes: Ava-27, three ounce, 6/0 hook; Ava-47, four ounce, 7/0 hook; Ava-67, six ounce, 7/0 hook, and the Ava-87, eight ounce, uses an 8/0 hook. The problem was that we usually stick predominantly to the Ava-47 and Ava-67 diamond jigs for striped bass, both of which only have the 7/0 hook. (The DeMaio Jig also uses a 7/0 hook.) In any case, I told John that it seemed to me that he may be getting a little nit-picky because I couldn't see where the change in hook size could possibly make any substantial difference in the amount of fish that you'd boat. Just between you and me, I can't tell the difference between a 7/0 and an 8/0 hook unless I have one of each in my hands at the same time. And even then, the only way I know is because one is bigger than the other. But when I went out fishing the next morning, I found out that it **did** make a difference and became a believer that it's the little things that count for big fish.

The next day I arrived at the Elbow just after sunrise and started to work a DeMaio Jig with the heave-and-haul method. Within a few minutes I hooked up with a nice bass that took plenty of drag, only to drop him before I had worked him halfway to the boat. Putting the boat back in gear, I hooked up and landed two bass in the twenty pound class in the next half hour. But after these two, I promptly hooked and dropped an additional two more before landing the third. Something was wrong; the percentages weren't working for some reason. Normally, I would only expect to drop one fish in ten that I had on my line for more than five seconds. Because as soon as a fish is hooked, the boat is taken out of gear—which usually takes about five seconds. If you haven't dropped the fish at that point, he is usually hooked good enough to bring to gaff, providing the drag has been set right and the fish is fought correctly. Although batting .500 might be a great percentage for a baseball player or someone playing quoits, it stunk as far as landing fish goes.

Then I remember what John had said about using the larger hook. Although I still had my doubts, I figured that I had nothing to lose; so I took the 8/0 hook off an eight ounce Ava and replaced the 7/0 on the DeMaio Jig I was using. Sure enough—I took five more bass before the tide ran out without dropping another fish. Now eight striped bass averaging over twenty pounds each is a decent catch these days, but eleven bass are even better. By using a small hook and not paying attention to the little things like John had, I probably dropped three fish I should have had, in effect reducing my catch by almost a third. Lesson learned.

The eight bass were taken Friday morning at the start of the July 4 weekend. The next time I was able to get out was that Saturday afternoon, and I took five more bass without dropping a fish—although I missed a few hits, which is always to be expected. On Sunday, I had three of my wife's cousins aboard (you know how it is)—Frank, Danny and Bobby, and we took eight bass. Although they dropped a few, I marked it up to their inexperience. I took four of the eight fish, again without dropping one. Last Friday morning I boated six fish without a miss, except for an incident I will go into later in this article. Saturday morning I bagged three bass before a wall of fog descended around the Point, again without dropping a fish. So I had turned the percentages around completely. I had dropped a fish, caught two, dropped the next two, then brought to gaff and landed the next twenty-four striped bass after I had started using the 8/0 hook.

The percentages aren't actually the whole truth and nothing but, but I didn't consider what I am about to tell related to the change in hook size. Last Friday, when I took six bass, something very aggravating happened that I had never experienced in the past. At some point during the day the fishing was unusually hot and I was blitzing them. I had found a large school of fish that I marked on my recorder which turned out to be a mix of small bluefish with big bass under them—an ideal situation to pick the bass out with a jig. I had already boated several blues and two bass over twenty, when I hooked up with a really big bass, over thirty and maybe more than forty. The fish made a strong run and had come to the top—typical of a bass. I had worked the fish back to the boat to within about fifty feet and could make out his fins cutting the water, when the line suddenly went slack. At first I thought that I had been cut off, but as I retrieved, I could feel the weight of the jig still on the line. As soon as the jig was in the prop wash I immediately sent it back again because I was still marking the school of fish on the Lowrance straight line recorder. Needless to say, while doing all this, I was cursing my lungs out and stamping on the deck like a buffalo in heat.

I felt the jig touch bottom, simultaneously locked the reel and started the retrieve. On the fifth or sixth slow turn I felt a bump and swung the rod to set the hook—a clean miss. As I now stomped on the deck like a **herd** of buffalo in heat, I sent the jig back for the second bounce. Five or six slow turns and another bump, strike—again no fish! What the hell's going on here...three strikes and no fish? Something's got to be wrong here. So I finally decided to pull the jig in and check the hook for sharpness.

This simple chore proved quite difficult to do for the simple fact that there **wasn't** any hook attached to the jig! And I don't care how good you are, you just aren't going to cut the mustard fishing without a hook. In my haste to get the jig back to the bottom to get revenge for dropping the big bass, I had committed the sin of not paying attention to the little details. As a rule of thumb, you should always check your hook for sharpness and bentness (bentness? Mrs. Booth, forgive me!) after hanging up on the bottom catching a fish or, in this case, losing a fish. By not doing so, I had missed three possible fish, all of which more than likely were bass. I still haven't figured out if the eye had opened or the hook had actually broken at the eye, but what's the difference...I blew it.

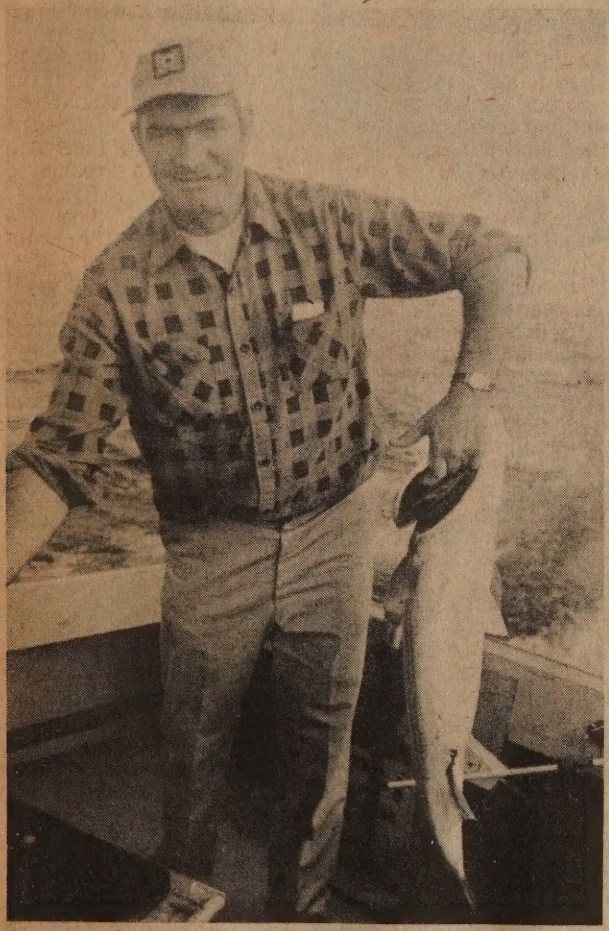
I almost lost another bass that same day by not paying attention to the little things—like checking to make sure the gaff is sharp before trying to stick it into a twenty pound striper. Such lapses of memory also have a way of

creating situations that always seem to occur when they would be the most embarrassing to the sinning fisherman, and this was no exception.

I had worked the bass to the side of the boat, and reached over the side to hit him with my **Reliable** gaff. The point made a perfect glancing blow and bounced off the fish's body. I struck again and nailed a nice scale on the point of the gaff, which I was beginning to discover was only "reliable" when sharpened after using it for a boat hook when docking the previous day. After the third strike and a second scale on the gaff, I finally decided to use a second gaff on the fish, which was patiently waiting for the coup de grace, but showing signs of annoyance. While reaching for the second gaff, I accidentally dropped the first in the water. I quickly gaffed the bass and dropped him on the deck (as he sighed in relief) and tried to get the second gaff out of the water. Fortunately, Reliable Gaffs are made to float and have a rope loop on the end for just such occasions, and after four or five stabs and two-thirds of my body out of the boat, I was able to snag the loop with the second gaff.

Needless to say, this little comedy gave quite a chuckle to Michael Potts, who was passing by about ten feet away in his charterboat, the "Bluefin IV." Michael Potts is one of the better inshore fishermen at Montauk, known for his uncanny ability to take unusual shore ranges. This ability has led some fishermen to mistakenly believe that Mike had become a master at employing the "Montauk Lookaway" when his trolling direction was on a collision course with their boat and he doesn't seem to see them because he's always looking up at the sky. But I can say unequivocally that this isn't true.

I firmly believe that he is taking ranges on the clouds.



There's no doubt that using a diamond jig that had a hook helped Joe Smyth considerably in catching this thirty-pound striped bass last fall at Montauk. Hooks should always be checked to see if they are still sharp or have been bent after hanging up on the bottom or catching a fish, particularly blues.

When gaffing large striped bass like this one...

...it's always a good idea to make sure the gaff is sharp.

Smitty, Joe Smyth and John DeMaio wouldn't have scored like this with the bass if they hadn't paid attention to the "little things."

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

ANSWERS AT BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

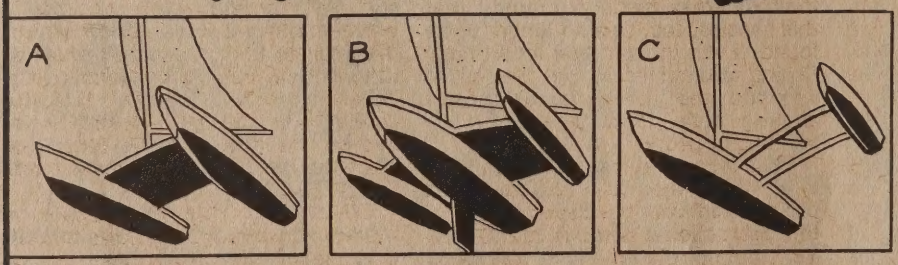
(1) SHARKS CAN BE ATTRACTED BY PLAYING SOUNDS ON UNDERWATER SPEAKERS.
TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

(2) THE STING OF A JELLY-FISH CAN BE RELIEVED BEST BY APPLYING OLIVE OIL ☐ GASOLINE ☐ ALCOHOL ☐ ADOLPH'S MEAT TENDERIZER ☐

(3) THE SAILFISH IS THE FASTEST FISH THAT SWIMS. IT HAS BEEN CLOCKED AT 50 MPH ☐
60 MPH ☐
70 MPH ☐

(4) THE AMERICAN CONDOR, THE LARGEST BIRD THAT FLIES, SOARS ALONG AT 8000 FT. ☐
12000 FT. ☐
16000 FT. ☐

BY FRED GUARDINEER



(5) IDENTIFY THESE MULTI-HULL SAIL BOATS.

CATAMARAN.. ☐
TRIMARAN... ☐
PROA..... ☐

(6) A READER OF THE "*FISHERMAN*" ASKED US... "CAN I KEEP AN OCTOPUS AS A PET IN A HOME SALTWATER AQUARIUM?"

(WE GET 'EM ALL!)

1-TRUE. IRREGULARLY PULSED LOW FREQUENCY SOUNDS (15-50 CYCLES PER SECOND) RESEMBLE STRUGGLING OR WOUNDED FISH. 2-ADOLPH'S MEAT TENDERIZER IN A SALTWATER SOLUTION 3-70 MPH. 4-16,000 FT. 5-(A) CATAMARAN (B) TRIMARAN (C) PROA. 6-SEVERAL SPECIES SUCH AS *O. JOUBINI* AND *O. BRIAREUS* HAVE BEEN KEPT IN AQUARIUMS PROVIDED THE OCTOPI ARE NOT TOO BIG AND THE AQUARIA NOT TOO SMALL.

The Nantucket Striped Bass Preserve

by Al Reinfelder

It is July 4, 1981. Outdoor writers from every coastal state have gathered at the Goose Hummock shop on Cape Cod in preparation for the opening of the long-planned Nantucket Striped Bass Preserve. Long lines of camping vehicles are strung along the shoulder of the ten-lane highway which takes tourists from mainland Massachusetts to Provincetown City at the tip of Cape Cod.

Most of the writers are in their air-conditioned vehicles enjoying TV tapes of old-time fishing; others are busy at their typewriters. Outdoor writing has now fallen into two categories: Fiction and History. The fiction writers conjured up images of clean water, diving birds, and hard-hitting fish. The historians confine themselves to factual accounts of fishing as it once was. They discuss such topics as "Plugging: from the first black bass lure, to the last striped bass lure" and "Who caught the last bluefish."

Outside, the yellow haze drifting up from the southwest only occasionally allows the sun to penetrate. It is very warm and the soot-fall is unusually heavy. At five o'clock, a two-hundred passenger bus pulls up and every writer takes up his pad and pencil and files in. To the surprise of everyone, the windows have been replaced by color television screens which depict various sunlit outdoor scenes. The sets are so synchronized that it appears as if the bus is actually moving through farmlands, mountain passes, and rocky seashores.

As the bus gets under way, some of the writers fall down in the aisle because they cannot orient themselves to the real motion. Several hostesses run up to help the confused writers. They guide them to seats and prepare drinks which immediately make them feel better. Once under way, everyone is served drinks which support the illusion of motion through the great outdoors. Some of the men begin making notes describing the scenery. One writers asks to be shown a real window. The trip manager is called to dissuade this gentleman from asking for an actual view, but in the end he is led to the driver's compartment and allowed to enter.

From behind the driver's seat, the writer can see the new road which winds easily through the lovely Cape Cod-style super apartment buildings. Some of the new houses are so tall that he cannot see the tops of them through the haze. The highway sweeps across Monomoy Peninsula Colony and onto the long bridge which links Monomoy with Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, Cuttyhunk, and the entire chain of Elizabeth Islands. This complex of roads and bridges is known as Corps Circle in honor of the Army Corps of Engineers which built it for the purpose of transporting the huge earth moving equipment it needed to build the system of tidal basins, flood gates, dikes, and power stations in Nantucket Sound.

It was as a result of the turmoil and dislocation caused by this project that the Nantucket Striped Bass Preserve came into existence. Around 1975, because of the continued pollution of the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays, and the super-heating of the Hudson River by nuclear power plants, the striped bass was becoming extinct. The huge hatcheries built by Con Edison as a gift to fishermen were flops. Once released at sea, the bass died because of the lack of bait. Sport fishing for these great fish came to an end.

As the Army Corps project had so disturbed New England bluefish in their summer feeding grounds that this species, too, was no longer to be found, it was thought that an artificial fishing ground could be created to simulate the actual conditions of angling once loved so dearly by millions of people.

Thus it came about that money left over from the $800 billion water project went into the development of this recreational area. A giant New York public relations firm had been sending out news releases on the project for months. Striped bass from the Con Edison hatcheries were introduced and bait fish imported from Greenland were systematically fed to the fish; but tomorrow would be the first time that people from the outside would be able to see and enjoy this marvel of technology.

At night an enormous party is given for the outdoor writers by the Army Corps of Engineers. There is much drinking, indoor fireworks, and at the height of the party a red, white and blue bulldozer is driven into the room for all to see. This is the actual vehicle which pushed the final mass of earth closing off Nantucket Sound from the sea. The engineers stand and salute the giant machine, but many of the outdoor writers are too sick to move.

Breakfast the next morning is excellent and it is followed by a briefing by the Corps Commander. At the end of this, he leads the writers to the Preserve itself.

It is a marvel to see. Eighteen numbered pools are set up to simulate the various types of striped bass angling. The Commander describes it as sort of a "miniature golf for fishermen."

The first pool represents "Marshland Bank Fishing." Plastic marsh grass has been artfully pushed into a brown urethane material in a near-perfect simulation of the real thing. Five and six pound bass can be seen moving slowly through the water. A writer is invited to try a cast. He throws a popper up against the bank and begins working it back. Many writers are so enthralled with the overall scene that they can hardly watch the fishing. Consequently, they miss the hit as one of the fish—a somewhat sickly looking fellow—goes for the lure. The outdoor writer sets the hook and reels the slightly lethargic fish to the edge of the pool where an Army Engineer picks him up in a net.

The second pool represents the surf. At a far end of this long pool a wave-making device sends small, even rollers up to the sandy shore at the writer's feet. A well-known surf fisherman is invited to try. Unfortunately, this rather grim-looking writer misses the tank and his long cast smashes the neon sign which reads "High Surf."

Other pools have small boats on them which allows the writers to troll. Because of the shallowness of the pools, however, no more than ten feet of line can be let out. Nevertheless, everyone catches fish. The Commander explains that for two days the supply of bait fish has been drastically reduced to assure "hot fishing."

The day is a perfect success, except for the selfish act of one of the older writers in the group who commits suicide by hanging himself from the exhibit simulating "Bridge Fishing." It is obvious that he was not able to understand that, although these pools, and the Striped Bass Preserve as a whole, are not perfect, they are much better than nothing at all. And that in this way people can enjoy fishing and still have all the power and other conveniences that he and the other 400 million Americans need.

(ED'S. NOTE: *See Spider Andresen letter in* Chum Lines *dept. on page 4.)*

LANDBOUND ON L.I. SOUND

by Andy Regina

Mention man's oldest sport, or ask what the most popular sport in the world is, and after you get the most obvious answer—women—you'll hear all sorts of conjecture, although football, baseball, and basketball will usually get most of the votes.

Very rarely will anyone mention fishing, and yet it is certainly one of our oldest sports; probably in existence since the beginning of time, when man first came on the scene. And the phenomenal growth it has achieved in the past decade or two most certainly should attest to its popularity in no uncertain terms.

Likewise, when you mention fishing, you get all different answers as to what the most popular method is: from fly rod angling to blue water trolling for behemoths, but rarely a mention of the one most overwhelmingly popular method—fishing from shore. Yet this fact is blatantly obvious: just as walking is our most popular means of transportation, so too is fishing from shore our most popular method of fishing; simply because it is the easiest, most available method for the majority of us.

Although not everyone can afford the luxury of owning a boat, or chartering a boat, renting a skiff, or paying the fare on a party boat, fishing from shore is definitely within anyone's means. And although often considered an unproductive, fishing from shore in western Long Island Sound can usually result in success, especially for those seeking the big three of our bottom fish: flounders, blackfish or porgies. Even though much of the shore line encompassing the western end of the Sound is private and inaccessible to the public, some diligent searching in the Bronx, Westchester, Connecticut, and Long Island, can usually turn up enough public spots from which to fish.

A word of advice is in order here: never trespass on private property. If you have no alternative, and must do so, a courteous request will usually elicit a cooperative reply from the owner, according you the privilege of fishing there. If you should be lucky enough to be thus privileged, don't abuse it, and make sure that you always leave the area clean and free of trash, even if it means picking up trash other than your own. It will pay dividends for you next time, or for the next fisherman who is smart enough to seek permission beforehand also.

For flounder fishing, try to select an area that is comparatively free of rocks, as a rocky shore line usually portends a rocky fishing area, and flounders are not too fond of a rocky bottom. They much prefer a soft bottom, where they can root around for worms, clams, and other natural food. A sand or mud bottom is ideal, and this area does not have to be too large to provide good flounder fishing; quite often small, clear patches of bottom between rocky areas will harbor goodly stocks of flounder; so try to select such areas if possible.

Rigging for flounder is simple. A pair of #8 Chestertown hooks, tied in tandem just above a sinker heavy enough to hold bottom is the accepted flounder rig in this end of the Sound. Make a sinker loop at the bitter end of your line, and tie a dropper loop about two inches above it, to allow your hooks to lay directly on the bottom where the action is. Avoid using any hardware whatsoever: swivels, spreaders, and their like only collect unwanted debris and weed, all the while shortening your casting distance and increasing your chances of getting stuck on the bottom.

The bait most widely used is the seaworm: either sand worms or bloodworms, depending on local preference and the choice of the individual. Clams and mussels are also effective, but the all-time best bait is by far the tape worm. Not available from bait shops, you must dig these rascals up yourself, but once you have done so you will be as firmly convinced as I am of their excellence, and will hunt tape worms to the exclusion of all other baits.

Disturbing the bottom and imparting movement to your baited hooks will increase your chances of catching flounders. While the normal practice of jigging is impractical, or even downright impossible at times while fishing from shore, you can still obtain excellent results by reeling in your bait very slowly along the bottom, pausing at regular intervals to allow interested fish time to swallow the bait.

While movement is beneficial in flounder fishing, the exact opposite holds true when fishing for blackfish. Never, repeat NEVER, move your baits while blackfishing, as this will always cause any interested blackfish to become overly cautious, and they will refuse all offerings.

Blackfish feed on crabs, shellfish, and barnacles, and any wreck, pier, or bottom structure holding this natural source of their diet will also be ideal locations at which to find these bucktoothed battlers. Bridge abutments and jetties are also ideal locations, as they, too, are the blackfish's natural habitat, and they should definitely be explored for resident fish, as should all rocky areas—those hidden below the surface as well as those obviously evident above the surface.

Terminal tackle once again should most definitely NOT include any hardware whatsoever, to minimize your chances of getting caught in rocks or wrecks. Rigging consists of a pair of Virginia hooks, usually #5 or #6, tied in tandem above a sinker; once again, just heavy enough to hold bottom. Instead of tying a dropper loop for attaching hooks, try tying your line directly onto the eye loop of the hook snell, as this direct tie can often result in allowing you a more acute sense of feel for blackfish bites, which can be almost imperceptible at times.

Accepted baits are clams and crabs, although seaworms can often produce more effectively, if bergalls and other bait stealers are not over abundant. Pieces of hard-shelled clams or soft-shelled clams can be used; whole, cracked steamer clams are good also, as are a host of shellfish and crabs. Whole fiddler crabs, or pieces of green crab, calico crab, and even blue claw crab are all excellent blackfish baits because they not only have great appetite appeal to blackfish, but are a more difficult bait for bergalls to steal.

Rods should always be hand-held, rather than set in rod holders, and baits kept stationary, with no slack line permitted. Preliminary blackfish bites consist of soft pecks or nibbles, at which time the angler must forcibly restrain himself from trying to set the hook, because at this time, the fish does not have the bait in his mouth, and is merely sampling it prior to swallowing it. Wait for the fish to pass the bait back to its crushers, which are located at the back of the throat, and used to crush hard-shelled baits to facilitate digestion. At this time you will feel a distinct tug. Now is the proper time to quickly set the hook with a sharp, upward thrust of the rod, and to maintain a tight

grip on the rod, to keep the blackfish from returning to a crevice, where he will surely hang you up on some obstruction.

Porgies are a favorite summertime species, distinct from the spring and fall, cool weather loving flounders and blackfish. They are sought by many fishermen not only for their abundance or good taste, but for the exceptional fighting qualities of hooked fish, which can put up quite a scrap, considering their small size. These saltwater pan fish will continuously amaze you with their spirited resistance, belying their diminutive size in comparison to the beautiful battle they put forth when hooked.

Because they have comparatively small mouths, porgies are notorious bait stealers, so we strongly advise you to once again keep all slack out of your line, and to hold that fishing rod in your hands at all times, being prepared to set the hook at the slightest hint of a nibble.

While small pieces of fresh clams are excellent porgy baits, the piece-de-resistance is a tiny piece of bloodworm; this one bait will usually outfish all other bait, at any time, in any given place; so try to bring some along on your next porgy fishing trip, to see the results for yourself. Due to those small mouths, porgy hooks should be relatively small; many fishermen prefer to use small beak hooks in sizes from #2 to #4, but we have our own theory: combining the theory that big hooks will not catch small fish, but small hooks can catch big fish, with the already mentioned known fact of the porgy's small mouth, we use tiny Sproat hooks in size #6, and can really do a job of "tomahawking" porgies, while others idly watch or keep score.

Rig porgy hooks the same as for blackfish—tying two hooks in tandem an inch or two above the smallest sinker you can get by with. Look for porgies on a fairly clean, relatively hard bottom—either sand or gravel—and preferably near some rocks or mussel beds. Usually, where you find one porgy you can expect to find others: they are gregarious fish, travelling in large schools, and can often provide some fast and furious fishing. You'll also discover that porgies bite best on a moving tide—either the last of the incoming or the top of the outgoing. Slack tides seem to provide only a slow pick, if anything at all.

We said earlier that some diligent searching can provide plenty of shore fishing places, but if you need some help here, you can start by investigating these places first: the jetties at both ends of Orchard Beach in The Bronx provide good to excellent fishing at times: the jetty at Beach #1 being productive for porgies, and the jetty at Beach #13 yielding flounders and/or blackfish. Other locations can be found along the shoreline of Little Neck Bay, adjacent to the Cross Island Parkway; the jetty at the western end of Fort Totten; the rip-rap along the base of the Throgg's Neck Bridge near the old Bronx Beach and pool; or the shore line along Rodman's Neck in Pelham Bay, from the Police Pistol Range to the Pelham Bay Bridge.

For blackfish you can't beat the steps of the City Island Bridge on the Bronx side, or the immediate shore line of Hunter Island, between the City Island Bridge and Orchard Beach. Here you had better come out very early though, because the best spots get taken first, and conditions during a good run can get extremely crowded, to say the least. Few people realize it, but right under the Whitestone Bridge, at Ferry Point Park, you can catch some big blackfish if you fish close to the abutments. The current here is extra strong, especially under the bridge, so be prepared to use heavy tackle and heavy sinkers, if you want to score.

When you stop to think about it, there are really a lot of places to fish from, all accessible to the public, all fairly easily reached, and all lightly fished, except by those in the know: the fishermen who keep searching and investigating. In the Sound View section of the Bronx, the whole shore line at the end of Soundview Avenue, past Shorehaven Beach Club, is good for catching flounders, eels, or even a school striper at times, as is the shore line in Hunts Point, in the vicinity of the Con Ed gas tank. Look around, investigate, and use your head, and you'll find even more places than I have named. The main thing is to get out there and spend an enjoyable day near the water: if you catch a fish or two to boot, so much the better, and if you can manage to take the wife and kids along, you'll all have a ball, and you must might be lucky enough to get those kids interested in fishing—the oldest sport in the world!

PHOTOS: ***(Left page, top.)*** **The jetty at the end of Beach 13 at Orchard Beach;** ***(Top photo, above.)*** **Fishing off the huge stone steps of the City Island Bridge, Bronx side;** ***(Above.)*** **The shore of Hunter Island, between City Is. Bridge and Orchard Beach.**

South Shore Bottom Fishing

by Ron Onorato

One of the bright spots in an otherwise lackluster season for many of the West End fishermen would surely be the improved quality of the local, inshore bottom fishing. At varying times of the year, many of the inshore grounds were loaded with blackfish, sea bass, and porgies. After a period of time when many of these ground fish were scarce, recent years have seen pretty much of a resurgence of these species. For many fishermen, these fish filled the gap left by the poor fluke and striper fishing, and their presence was more than welcomed. Despite the high quantity of fish on the grounds last season, many fishermen seemed to have trouble getting themselves established. Of course, many of the sharper skippers had no problem in getting themselves on some of the productive pieces of ground. At first glance, finding some of the unmarked reefs might seem like an impossible task, but as you will see after the first trip, there should be little or no trouble at all finding them again.

Unlike some North Shore areas, where much of the bottom is very rich in bottom life, the South Shore is basically a barren piece of ground. with the exception of the Cholera Banks off Jones Inlet, and some other pieces off Fire Island, there are few natural pieces of ground. In order to get around this lack of natural pieces, enterprising people set about making various reefs at different locations. Rubble from construction, old cars, old barges, cement filled tires, etc., were dumped in the Ocean off many of the South Shore beaches in an effort to create artificial reefs. Added to this are many of the local wrecks, which while not intentionally created, are nonetheless artificial reefs of sorts.

These wrecks and reefs are, in effect, a sort of oasis out in the desert. They represent the only obstruction on an otherwise barren bottom, and ocean life of all sorts are attracted to them. First to establish themselves on the rubble are the lower forms of life such as mussels, barnacles, and crabs. After the wreck becomes established, the predatory fish such as bergalls, blacks, porgies, and sea bass begin to feed on the plentiful supply of forage that the reef now produces. A whole marine ecosystem is thus established on each reef or wreck. Some of the pieces are nothing more than sanded-over barges, such as the T Wreck right off the beach at Jones Inlet, while others are spawling artificial reefs like the Fire Island Reef or the Buoy 4 Reef off Deb's Inlet. Regardless of where you fish, each of these grounds produce handsomely in season.

Since much has already been written about the blackfish, we'll limit the bulk of this article to the other inhabitants of the rocks: the sea bass and porgy. Suffice it to say that big bulldog blackfish can be found on many of the grounds that will be mentioned, except that they will usually be found before the other species show up, and they will stay long after the porgies and sea bass depart for their wintering grounds. The blackfish are primarily a spring and fall attraction on the grounds.

The big two species that keep the sinker bouncers busy are the porgies and sea bass. The sea bass will generally show up a month or so ahead of the porgies, and will generally linger a little longer in the fall than do the scup. While last year will not go down in the books as one of the best sea bass years, the fishing for the most part was fair to good—and in some cases, excellent. It wasn't anywhere near as good as it was in 1976, when virtually every rock in the Atlantic Ocean had a huge school of sea bass on it. However, there are enough pin bass around to indicate that the fishery still is basically in good shape. Last year, the offshore lobstermen caught thousands of sea bass in their pots well off the beach; so it seems that the bulk of the fish never really got into the inshore grounds.

The porgies on the other hand, have been fairly consistent for the past few years, with the fishing fair to good in most cases. The porgies are strictly a warm water fish that seldom show up in local waters until the end of May, or if the spring has been cold, the middle of June. The bulk of the good fishing occurs during the months of July, August, and September. Depending on the water temperature, they will usually vacate the inshore grounds around the beginning of October.

Both the porgy (or scup as he is called in New England) and sea bass generally favor the same type of forage. The sea bass, because of its larger mouth will, at times, go after much larger forage than the porgy. A fair size sea bass will have no trouble swallowing whole tiny bergalls, crabs, or lobsters. The porgy on the other hand will, with its tiny mouth, settle for tiny things such as small crabs, clams, and mussels, and on occasions, tiny sand eels.

Another basic difference between the two, is that the sea bass will at times range well off the bottom. When the fish are not feeding on bait right on the bottom, they will range as far as five or six feet off the bottom, very similar to the codfish. The porgy, on the other hand, usually feeds within a foot or so of the bottom and seldom strays any higher than that. It is these two differences that you must take into account when rigging up for these fish so that you will be able to maximimize your catch.

We'll take a look at the rigging for each of these species, and some tiny hints that will help you along when you encounter either of them.

First off, because of the porgy's tiny mouth, you're going to have to use a reasonably small hook, even for some of those big humpback ocean porgies. As a general rule, a #1 or #2 Eagle Claw hook will be a good bet. If the fish are finicky, sometimes going to a #4 hook with the tiniest pieces of bait will help out. These hooks are usually snelled on thirty or forty pound leader material about twelve inches long. The first hook is connected to your line right near the sinker, while the second hook is connected about eight or nine inches above the lower hook.

With the sea bass, you can use a somewhat larger size hook. A 2/0 to 4/ Eagle Claw can be used, depending on the general size of the fish. The first hook is attached about six inches above the sinker, while the second hook is connected about twelve inches above that hook.

As far as the bait department goes, they are generally similar, with perhaps one small difference. Because of the ease of its availability, fresh or frozen skimmer clam is the most widely used bait and is perhaps the most effective. Both the porgy and sea bass will eagerly take this bait, in either its fresh or frozen states. The only drawback with this bait occurs when the bergalls (ocean perch) are heavy, and then its effectiveness diminishes. Fresh or frozen squid is very effective for the sea bass, but

Ray Bennett unhooks a nice sea porgy taken on the *"Iberia"* wreck.

less so for the porgy. Strips of bait cut from a small bergall will also fish very well for the sea bass. The hard crab baits, which are so effective for the blackfish, will not work well with either the sea bass or porgy. An all-around good bet seems to be the skimmer clam for both species.

Another slight difference between the fishing technique for sea bass and the porgy, is that the porgy responds better to a bait fished from an anchored boat rather than from a drifting one. The sea bass, on the other hand, will go more avidly for a drifting bait than it will for a still-fished bait. The main difficulty with drifting around such foul bottom is that you'll hang up in the rocks more often than its worth, especially around a wreck; so for the most part, it's an anchoring proposal. On the Cholera Banks, where the bottom is rocky, but not to the extent that you'll hang up every time, drifting on the high spots will produce the best results.

One thing that might be added: it does not pay to chum when fishing around one of these pieces of ground. You have to remember that you're structure fishing, and the fish are already present in a small area. Another thing is that there may be just a small pocket of fish on the piece, and if you start chumming, you'll merely feed the fish with the chum, and they won't respond to your baited hooks as well as you would like. The only time chumming would pay off is if you're fishing a large area and the fish are somewhat scattered; otherwise chumming around a wreck or reef is often counter-productive.

A word about anchoring on some of these wrecks and reefs is in order. Unless you plan on donating an expensive Danforth anchor and a length of anchor line, do not anchor directly over the piece itself. If you have a depth recorder, run the piece until you've marked the edge of it, and then pull the boat up-wind or up-tide of the dropoff. Drop your anchor here, and then come back with the boat until it makes up over the desired piece of ground. This way, the boat is situated over the hard bottom, but the anchor is set (hopefully) in the soft bottom.

Okay, now that we've had a brief rundown on the how-to's of this type of bottom fishing, the next big question—is where to start fishing. An mentioned earlier, there are a couple of spots, some marked and some unmarked, that will all hold some fish at varying times of the year. About the only things that you'll need is a good compass, a recording depth recorder, and a clear day. Finding the marked pieces of ground is merely a matter of running a compass course until you pick up the buoy, float, or whatever. Finding the unmarked pieces of ground is somewhat more difficult. Usually you'll have to look for another boat that is fishing on it, and then take shore ranges so that way you'll be able to locate it on subsequent trips. It should be added that with the exception of the Cholera Banks, almost all of the wrecks and reefs that are productive are within three or four miles of the beach, and there are more than enough shore ranges around to help you out.

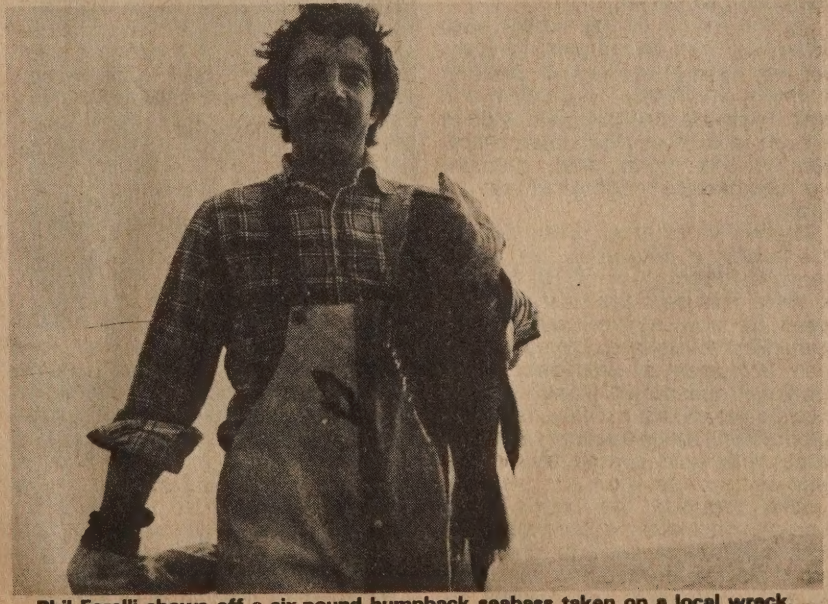
Here are some of the spots that have been productive in the past:

The Cholera Banks: This natural reef is one of the larger pieces on the South Shore. Look for some nice sea bass on the high pieces of ground that dot the area. Not too many porgies are found here. In years gone by, this was one of the best codfish spots on the East Coast. This reef is about six-and-a-half nautical miles from Jones Inlet on a course of 175°. This is a big piece of ground and is dotted with all sorts of lobster pot floats and flags, so finding the area is no sweat on a clear day. There are some nice blackfish here in the fall.

The Rockaway Reef: This is a large artificial reef consisting mostly of rock and rubble from the old Cross Bay Bridge. It lies about two miles off the beach in fifty-five feet of water and is marked by two marker buoys on its edges. From East Rockaway (Debs) Inlet, a course of 240° will put you there; while from the Breezy Point Jetty, a 105° course is fine. This area is heavily fished, but still produces a lot of small porgies.

The Buoy 4 Reef: Another fair sized artificial reef that is a good producer of nice sea bass, and when things are right, some nice porgies. The wreck is a mish-mosh of old cars, cement tires, sunken barges, and a lot of rock and rubble. The wreck lies northeast of the buoy in about sixty feet of water some four miles off the beach. A

(Continued on page 33.)



Phil Forelli shows off a six-pound humpback seabass taken on a local wreck.

CORNERING THE BLUEFISH

by Donald Millus

For the expert striped bass fisherman, the bluefish is often an unwanted visitor at the end of the line, chomping on a live eel or bunker intended for more noble prey. But for the angler who takes his fishing excitement wherever he can get it, the bluefish always means fun. And a mid-summer day with just the hint of a breeze plus a whole school of blues all to ourselves—that's what we dream about all winter.

I had come up from South Carolina to spend a summer in the Yale library, but those who knew me well wanted to know if I might sneak in an occasional fishing trip on Long Island Sound. Mostly to renew old acquaintances, I called up Vinnie Ciulla, the guiding spirit of a local angling fraternity. "Meet me at Sportsmen's Rendezvous at five," he said. "We'll try for stripers and blues."

"Sportsmen's," as Vinnie calls it over the phone, is one of the best sources in Connecticut for fresh news and fresh fish, many of them caught by Vinnie himself; but at five in the morning all one is interested in is a cup of coffee. In a half hour, we are heading out of the harbor past yachts and super yachts of every description. Our host is Henry Morgan and his twenty-foot Wellcraft is filled with tackle, sandwiches and an aerator-equipped bait barrel.

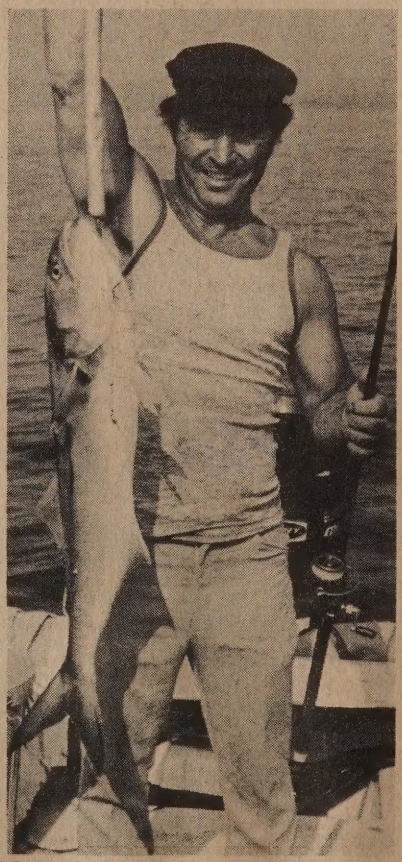
At the mouth of the harbor, two fishermen have waded past the rocks and are fishing for fluke or summer flounder. At times, the bluefish will push in close to the rocks, and anglers will tie into them right from shore. But on this warm, still, summer morning, we are heading out into the Sound.

We fish not for blues at first, but for the bunker or menhaden that would be our live bait. The telltale flipping of these fish near the surface is the signal to cast weighted treble hooks and work them with a jigging motion until a bunker is snagged. Those hooked not too deeply go into the live bait barrel. Vinnie rigs one lively specimen on a wire leader with two treble hooks and puts it back in the water.

Over the past few years many anglers, some of them just beginners, have taken bass up into the fifty-pound class within a mile or two of the harbor, while using live bunker for bait. On one fishing trip with Vinnie I gaffed a forty pounder within ten yards of one of the sailboats tied up in the harbor. But this morning the bass have not moved in too close to shore. We have to go looking for them.

By now the sun is just visible through the early morning haze. It would be hot back on shore. A few boats have joined us in the hunt for bunker, but no one had hooked a bluefish. We pull in our live baits and cruise towards shore, always on the lookout for signs of feeding predators.

I notice the fish first. What was surprising was that none of the other boats noticed. Vinnie slows the boat so as to avoid spooking the fish. He and Henry set live bunker in the water. I shudder to note that one of Henry's lines is only six pound test. Since the fish are feeding on the top, I decide to throw a plug at them.



Vinnie holds up a blue that went 10 pounds. Notice the wire leader hanging from the fish...monofilament leaders won't last with big choppers.

The surface popper lands beyond the furthest splash of the feeding predators and I close the bail. Flip the rod tip, reel a few turns, flip again, and "crash." Something has grabbed that plug with a splash just an instant before I feel the rod being whipped toward the water. Alas, it is no striper, but for those of us from South Carolina who rarely see a bluefish over two pounds, the attack of a ten pound Long Island Sound bluefish is always a treat.

The fish tugs and I tug, and then there is another splash and my line goes slack. I start to reel the thrown plug and before it goes five feet, another blue has grabbed hold. Meanwhile, Vinnie has his first fish of the day on live bait. Vinnie gaffs both fish just as Henry ties into one. The blues have come to the rescue of a desultory striper trip.

Henry is still battling his fish when his six pound test rig bends toward the water. I grab it and set the hook. Although I have hold of the handle, it seems that something is wrong. "Is the drag working right?" I inquire. They insist it is, but I have to let loose of the handle to keep the fish from breaking off. After ten minutes of give-and-take, the fish dives under the boat and frays the line. The water is quiet around us and so we decide to head out past Charles Island. The fog and haze seemed to thicken and the water is almost dead calm. All Vinnie can say is that the conditions are perfect for spotting feeding fish.

He decides to head up the Sound a bit. We pass a pair of anglers fishing for blackfish in a small boat. "They've been getting them pretty good on cut green crabs," Vinnie notes. The boat and anglers are soon lost in the haze behind us. The sun still cannot burn it away completely and there is no breeze to help as yet.

No other boats are out here yet. And then the surface erupts again just over a hundred feet away. It's another school of blues. Vinnie cuts the motor and we go to work with the few live bunker we have.

Vinnie sets one rod down and picks up his bunker snagger, a spinning outfit with the weighted treble on. He casts out and his suspicions are

confirmed: the blues are feeding on a school of bunker. No sooner does he snag a fish than he lets it swim with the weighted treble hook in its side. Vinnie gets his first hit just about the same time as Henry is setting the hook on his second blue of the day. I end up gaffing both fish, and have to listen to remarks about my lack of skill with a gaff hook.

Our boat seems to be drifting with the blues and the bunker they're feeding on. As if in keeping with the warm, hazy morning the fish aren't moving too fast, but they keep hitting our baits. Henry ties into a big weakfish that grabs a bunker as solidly as any blue; but just then another boat appears through the haze. Our private school of blues will have to be shared.

The boat is filled with anglers, but apparently they do not notice the bunker flipping in the water near our boat. They keep going, back into the fog on the other side of the circle, of which our boat is the center. But the blues stay with us. After losing two bunker that the blues chop in half, I switch to a surface swimmer, an Atom plug that reminds me—by its color—of a raspberry and banana Good Humor.

Not on every cast, but on at least one out of three, I get a hit. Even with medium tackle and fifteen pound test line there is no horsing these fish. At the gaff, the blues struggle with that solid power that makes them such fierce predators.

Another boat comes out of the haze. They know Vinnie and he points toward the water. In a few minutes, they are into the blues, too. One of them fights a seven or eight pound weakfish to the boat. Our private school of blues keeps hitting. And then it happens! A third boat comes rushing up and runs right over the school of fish. The blues head for the bottom and for the next hour we search for them with only occasional success.

The sun has come through more strongly, aided in its contest with the haze by a slight breeze. It will still be hot on shore. The blues will have to be cleaned and iced promptly.

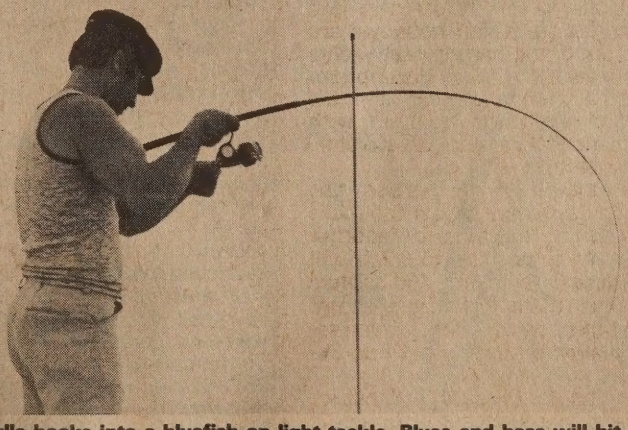
We head for shore. On the way back to port, I drop one off at Professor Fred Robinson's house—my peace offering for missing a coffee hour discussion that morning. For my own lunch, I fry up some strips of bluefish that I missed on the first pass with the filleting knife. Just a little lemon juice, a touch of margarine for the pan, and some sliced tomato fresh from the garden of my good neighbor, Corinna Cassari, and I forget about southern cooking. It has been a fine summer morning.

For those who have never fished with live bunker for blues or bass, a few hints. A live bait well with aerator is nice to have, but if the bass or blues are feeding on the bunker, just snag one and let it swim. The blues can be taken by letting the just-snagged bunker swim where it will. A long wire leader, a treble hook, and a short wire leader with another single or treble hook will ensure that most strikes mean fish hooked. Take plenty of extra rigs, because it is difficult and dangerous to remove a double treble hook from a live bluefish.

The stripers will hit the same rig, but if they are particularly fussy, as stripers may be, it will be necessary to tie a single hook of about 4/0 right to a monofilament line and then hook the bunker carefully either through its lips or beneath the dorsal fin.

Again, confirmed striper addicts will look down their noses at the bluefish, but this attitude may change if the recent scarcity of striped bass continues. The blues, too, may go into a cyclical downturn, but at least for this summer, there should still be a few private schools of blues left to corner.

Henry Morgan eases his first blue of the day onto the deck. This one hit a live bunker that Henry had just snagged.



Vinnie Ciulla hooks into a bluefish on light tackle. Blues and bass will hit live bunker all summer long in L.I. Sound. The trick is to find the bunker to snag.

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PORGIES

The fishing at Montauk has improved in virtually every category with the exception of striped bass. Weakfish are being taken in good numbers whenever the schools are found which can be just about anywhere—Outer Shagwong, North Rips, the Midway, off the Point, etc. Bluefish still make their appearance daily at the Submarine Buoy and Southwest Ledge, while huge schools of smaller blues have invaded the area in front of the light and along the south side beaches. Porgy fishing skyrocketed during the week from its peak fishing level and fishermen are taking all they want. Sea bass are still few and far between, much as they were last year, so it looks like another late season for them. Fluke fishing also improved considerably in the North Rips and Midway and now can be considered better-than-good. Striped bass action during the day took a downturn, with few boats trying any longer, but there are still fish being taken by those who work at it. The offshore action remains excellent and improving, with large makos coming in to all marinas daily and an abundance of blue sharks. First reports of school tuna in the 20-40 lb. class being taken south of the point. A few swordfish being spotted in the Dumping Grounds.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fishing Fleet** called to report that the fishing on all fronts broke loose during the week and continued to be excellent right through the weekend. The **Viking Startship** has been fishing Coxes Ledge with excellent results for cod up to 45 lbs., and a few big pollack daily. The cod are averaging 1o to 12 lbs. The **Viking Star** has found the fluke fishing to have improved considerably after a slow start and the action can now be rated as good to very good. Over the weekend, over 300 fluke were taken on the half-day trips. None of the fish are real big, but there are virtually no throwbacks. The North Rips have produced most consistently but fish are also being taken at Midway. The **Viking Starlite** has been getting in on the fantastic porgy fishing right off the point around Great Eastern and along the south side. A few sea bass are mixed in and Sunday's high hook was 63 porgies. Night bluefishing remains at massacre levels. As an example, one night during the week, the anglers aboard caught so many bluefish, they left behind over 1600 pounds that they couldn't carry. Catches are measured by the bag and the boat has been returning to the dock early quite often. Action has all been with the herring bait rigs, fished off Block Island, a little more than an hour's ride from the dock.

Capt. Buddy Dorman on the **Viking Skipper II** reported very good fishing during the week at both Gardiner's Island and off the point. Marvin Baer of New Jersey was aboard for three days and scored with 180 porgies. On Saturday Mike Murphy of Brooklyn and Bob Werner of Holbrook totaled 117 porgies of mixed sizes. Mike had a total of 19 doubleheaders in the catch. On Sunday, the boat anchored on the south side of Montauk and bailed fish until the anglers were ready to return at 1 PM. Mike Dext was high hook with 75 porgies, many of which were jumbos. A few sea bass and blackfish were mixed in along with flounder up to 3 lbs. Captain said that one day during the week when he was fishing Gardiner's Island, he made a stop at a spot he knew over by Fisher's Island and found a mess of snowshoe flounders for his customers. Some of the passengers aboard had over 20 flounder while drifting, and there were numerous doubleheaders.

Capt. Gene Kelly of the charter boat **Sea Doll** reported that he may have found the secret of scoring with mako sharks. He has been using whole bunker, which the blue sharks won't touch, but the makos have been scoffing up like candy. On Friday two makos were taken of 150 and 170 lbs., one mako of 110 lbs. was taken on Saturday, and on Sunday, a 155 lb. mako was bagged along with a blue shark of over 200 lbs. This action has been southeast of the point, 28 miles out in 190-195 feet of water. Gene reported that school tuna are all around the area, too. On Friday, he trolled a feather on the way out and had a strike from a marlin that wasn't hooked, unfortunately. The captain also told us that some swordfish and marlin are now being spotted in the northern section of the Dumping Grounds.

Captain Phil Lewis of the **Adios** reports that fishing has been fantas-

Edward Torack with a 15 lb. bass taken south of Montauk Point on wire line. Photo courtesy of Gone Fishing Marina.

tic. On Thursday afternoon, Scotty Howe of Killarne Rock Bay had 35 weaks and 30 blues on a half-day trip. Also on Friday, we caught 73 weaks and had an innumerable amount of blues. When the weaks hit, it was like a golden ocean when they came up. On Sunday, an all day shark fishing c charter for Cliff Olsen, and caught 10 blue sharks, 3 of which were well over 200 lbs., plus 1 makoe of 113 lbs., caught by Cliff-s 12-year-old nephew. Action all day fishing at 40 Fathoms using bunker and squid.

Capt. Warren Hader of the charter boat **Devilfish** reported that the offshore fishing has been excellent and his charters have been taking some really monstrous blue sharks. Dr. William Diefenbach of Southampton was aboard on a one-man charter one day and took 14 blue sharks, one of which was a near-record 300 lb. brute. On Saturday, one of the blue sharks the charter bagged weighed in at 275 lbs. In addition to the many big blue sharks that are being taken, they are also being taken in quantity. Some of the scores this month were 21 blue sharks on July 10, nine on the 11th, fourteen on the 12th, and seven on the 15th.

We heard this week that Hank Neville of the **Gone Fishing Marina** has decided to retire and is now running a new boat appropriately named "The Retired." We would like to wish Hank good luck and an enjoyable retirement with his lovely wife. The new owners of the marina are Maureen and Tom Sennefelder. Maureen told us that the inshore fishing has been good on all fronts, despite the inclement weather. On Tuesday, the "Lady Luck" took 300 lbs. of striped bass trolling at the Sub Buoy. On Wednesday, the "Spearfish" took 80 lbs. of weakfish and 50 lbs. of bluefish on Diamond jigs at Outer Shagwong and Great Eastern. On Thursday, the "Hi-Hopes" took 33 fluke up to 4 lbs. during the change of tide at the North Rips. The boat returned on Sunday to bag 42 more nice fish. On Saturday, "Daddy's Girl II" diamond jigged 140 lbs. of weakfish that ranged up to 12 lbs., off Shagwong. On Sunday, the 'Wopoko' took a mess of bluefish and weakfish on Ava-47 diamond jigs off Shagwong and Great Eastern. Maureen told us that a diver brought in a 50 lb. striped bass he had speared at the Elbow. He said that there are all kinds of bass at the Elbow.

Capt. Pete Van Alst of the charter boat **Modar II** brought in a mako shark of 228 lbs. on Sunday that was taken by 71-year-old Fred H. Martens of Fort Myers, Florida. The big mako took a mullett that the captain had brought up with him from Florida, where the charter boat sails from during the winter months.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that Archie Jost of the 'Sea Hunter' brought into the marina the first white marlin of the season on Sunday. The 98 lb. fish was taken on 15 lb. test line in the Dumping Grounds. Captain Larry Rodriguez of the charter boat **Tide-runner** took a 90 lb. mako shark. The Dumping Ground also provided some swordfish action on the weekend. Gerald Greenberg on the "Sta-Dor" took a mako of 40 lbs. there and baited a swordfish that wasn't interested. But the "Water Wagon" was a little luckier and found a sword that took the bait, only to spit it back at them. Inshore action has concentrated on the improved fluke fishing in the North Rips and the weakfish being taken at Outer Shagwong and in the North Rips trolling umbrella rigs and diamond jigging. The "Friendship" took 48 fluke in the North Rips. Richie Ridky has his family out weakfishing aboard their boat, the "Mad Millie." His lovely wife, Millie, just missed a world record by 12 oz. with the 11½ lb. weakfish she caught on 6 lb. test line. Needless to say, Millie was "Mad."

Capt. Freddy Byrd of the open boat

11 bass and a pile of blues for Pat, Dom and James. All fish taken on Diamond jigs aboard the "Vivienne."

Flying Cloud reported that the porgy fishing was very good all week and Sunday's action was bonanza time, with all boats doing a job on the fish. The porgies are mixed sizes ranging up to jumbos and are being taken in all the local haunts in front of the light and on the south side. On Sunday, the boat stopped at a special spot on the south side that appeared to be an old age retirement home for jumbo porgies. The fishermen aboard loaded up with oven-stuffer size porgies. Julius' sister won the $66 pool aboard the Flying Cloud on her first fishing trip ever with a 3½ lb. porgy. The Byrd told us that this is the real thing and now is the time for you porgy

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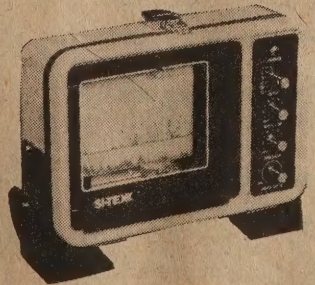

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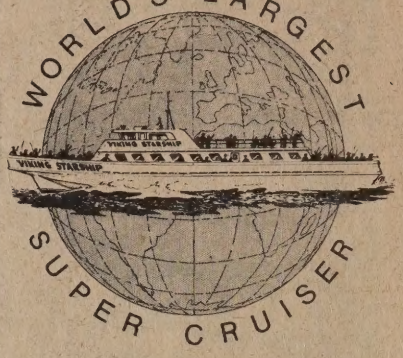

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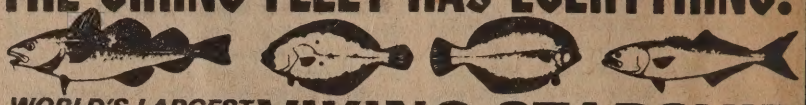

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fiends to come on out.

Capt. John DeMaio of the charterboat **Vivienne** reported that the bass fishing took a downturn on the weekend, but there are still fish around. On Thursday, the charter aboard took 10 bass on jigs in the morning. John said that the weakfish have moved in, but you have to really work at following the schools to make a good catch. Loads of small blues have invaded the inshore grounds and are providing constant action for both trolling and diamond jiggers.

Charterboat **Prowler** called to tell us that he is now sailing from Eddie Miller's Westlake Fishing Lodge. The boat will be Captained by Capt. Paul Grachek and Jack Dam will be the mate, formerly of the charterboat **Montauk**.

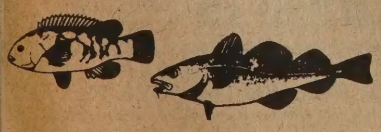
Charterboat **Tara** called to tell us that the weakfish had moved in on Wednesday from Shagwong to the Point on Diamond jigs or umbrellas, weaks from 2-9 lbs. Blues are mixed in from 2-7 lbs. Big bluefish are offshore with good spots being SE Light and the Sub buoy. Capt. Bruce fished Thursday and Friday night tides bagging 2-3 bass per night in the 18-20 lb class on trolled plugs. He says there is a lot of action.

Charterboat **Free Spirit** called to report he's been sharking with good results in 140 to 160' of water with whole mackerel. During this past week he had 1 mako and lost 5 all on mackerel fillets. He also had a 289 lb blue shark and a 390 lb duskie this week. Frank says that the Mako prospects look very good this year.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** tells us that an offshore shark trip on Sunday resulted in Peter Garvin bagging a 150 lb white shark and also a 200 lb white shark trolling in 40 fathoms of water about 150 degrees out of the point on mackerel. There have been numerous sightings of tuna.

Capt. Ron Grandinetti of the **Julie III** had a party of 6 led by Brian Wilson both Sat and Sun catching over 900 lbs of porgies up to 4¼ lbs, 124 blues up to 8 lbs, and one striped bass fishing at Great Eastern.

Capt. Larry Rodriguez of the charter boat **Tiderunner** called to tell us that he did very good with the bluefish in the North Rips on both half-day trips Saturday. On Sunday, he went offshore with a one-man charter and took a nice mako shark that jumped five times and was brought to gaff in a half-hour. They also had several large blue sharks that were released and a baby blue shark of about three feet. The head of the mako and the small blue shark are being mounted. Larry said that he has been lucky and hasn't had problems with bluefish in his chum slick in the last three trips offshore.



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FLUKE

SHINNECOCK

Capt. Clark Jr of the **Capt. Clark** reports the porgy fishing in Peconic improved greatly this week with good catches of King fish mixed in. The summer run of weakfish has started with the weekend showing fair results. **Capt. Clark II** has been fishing the offshore reef and wrecks with some excellent results on the seabass, some blacks mixed in.

Richie at **Altenkirch tackle** reported that some bluefish are being taken on umbrella rigs being trolled in 90 ft. of water outside the inlet. He also heard second-hand that there are schools of bluefin tuna in the 20-40 lb. class being spotted in 135-150 ft. of water. Fluke fishing inside the bay has been fair to good, but nothing spectacular. Best action has been in East Channel and off the Coast Guard Station on any moving tide. Still some good flounder fishing in deep holes, in the basket area and off the Coast Guard Station. Some mako sharks are being taken offshore, but they are way off in 250 to 270 feet of water, about 50 miles from the inlet.

Specks Bait & Tackle tells us that on Saturday Charlie Casella on his boat Lorain II had 30 choppers from 9-12 lbs fishing 105' of water. Things are still slow on the beach but the new moon should help. Porgies are still alive at middle grounds in the 1-2 lb range on sandworms. Some stripers on eels in Chinnecock Inlet at night. A few blues being jigged in Peconic on Diamond jigs and a few small weaks in Peconic in deep calm water at night on poppers.

HAMPTON BAYS

Tony's Fishing Station reported that fluke fishing has only been fair and has not been all that good lately. Largest fish on the weekend was 3¾ lbs., and the best action has been at buoys 9 and 7 in front of the Coast Guard Station and in east channel. Any moving tide using a strip of squid with either sand eel, spearing or killie for bait. Tony said that they are still catching a few nice flounder right in front of the Station using red-dyed clams or worms for bait.

MORICHES BAY

East Moriches Bait & Tackle called to say that on Friday Patricia Lee picked up a 90 lb Mako and 3 blueshark up to 212 lbs trolling 150' of

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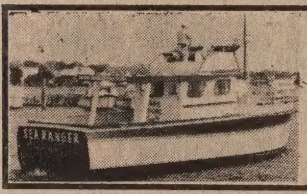

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water SE of the Inlet.

The Forge River Fishing Club's Saturday trounament resulted with Frank Hoffman in 1st with a 126 lb dusky and 2nd place for Kevin O'Brien with a 117 lb dusky. Both are members of the Great Gun Anglers.

Sunday Steve and Rob Stidd picked up 2 Makos 160 lbs and 91 lbs trolling 130' of water SE of Inlet and Fred Walker picked up a 116 lb Mako in 130' of water SE of the Inlet. Jack McConlough trolling 118' of water picked up 2 bluefish tuna 25 lbs each and 8 green bonitas.

Larry at **L & M Marine** reported that the offshore fishing has been very good with sharks and the water is alive. Robert Stidd took two mako sharks of 160 and 60 lbs., chumming in 130 ft. of water southeast of Moriches Inlet. Larry told us that he also had reports of schools of bonito popping up offshore.

Charterboat **Rogue** had a charter onSunday with Rick Howe, Jim Teed, Brian Kelly, Michael Houston, Jay Eanesser and Terry Di Francesco. They caught 3 mako shark SW of Moriches, 162 lbs, 251, lbs and 325 lbs. The 251 lb and 325 lb was a doubleheader which took 2 hrs to get to the boat. They used mackerel and bunker as chum.

GREAT SOUTH BAY

★BEST BET★
FLUKE

MASTIC BEACH

Gary at **Stiriz's Fishing Statior** called to say that some fluke were taken this past week by the bridge or incoming water on killie/squic combos, some blueclaw crabs were taken, heavy catches of bluefish up to 12 lbs are being taken on the inside on buoys 29 and 30 on surg tubes and umbrellas. Small blues and weaks have been taken in the hole at 17.

SAYVILLE

Janet at **Youngs Fishing Station** tells us that some fluke are still being taken off Pt of Woods killies and squid and that blues are being trolled or baited off Atlantique. Several schools of blues have been moving in the channel between West Island and Atlantique. Weaks on drifted local squid are still being taken behind the dredges in fair numbers and seem to be in confined area off Nichols Point.

BAY SHORE

Capt. Neal of the **Casey Lee** called to say that the fluking has been poor

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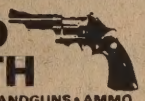
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SOUTH SHORE BOTTOM FISHING

(Continued from page 23.)

course of 160° from Deb's Inlet will put you right on Buoy 4. Right near the reef is the Iberia Wreck which is not marked, but produces some really big sea bass and porgies. From the Buoy, run a course of about 90° for about three-quarter miles: it is a small wreck, but not too hard to find.

The T-Wreck: This is a tiny wreck that lies just outside the Jones Inlet jetty in about twenty feet of water. It is about a half mile due east of the jetty, and has some sea bass on it, along with some blackfish. There almost always are a couple of boats fishing this inshore wreck.

Stone Barges: A couple of loaded barges lie about two miles from the Jones Inlet buoy in fifty feet of water. This is an unmarked artificial reef that is a little hard to find the first time out, but is an excellent producer of big porgies and sea bass. The heading here is about 125° from the Jones Inlet "JI" Buoy. This wreck receives very little pressure; so when you find it, it usually is loaded.

Fire Island Reef: The largest and perhaps most productive of the artificial reefs lies a couple of miles south of Fire Island in about sixty feet of water. This long reef was just extended with the addition of several barges and tugs; so it is really in good shape, and is one of the best on the East Coast. You can catch sea bass and porgies here just about any time in season, and they are big ones, too. It's about five miles from the Fire Island Inlet buoy on a 120° course. A pair of spar buoys marks the location of the reef.

These are a few of the larger and more productive grounds that are within easy access of the local fisherman. All of these can be found without expensive electronic gear by even an amateur boatman. Added to these are the hundreds of tiny pieces and wrecks that are known to a few boatmen who fish them regularly. If you hook up with a good local bottom fisherman, you find a wealth of new areas at your disposal.

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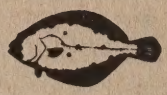

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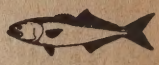

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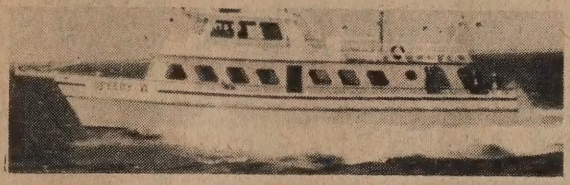

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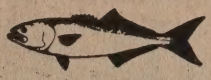

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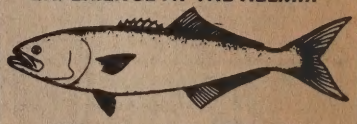

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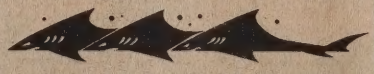

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Stan Giammalvo took these bass of 15 and 18 lbs., off of Cliff Street on a 2 oz. Gibbs Swimmer. Photo courtesy of Santo's Sport Shop.

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★7 PM★ EVERY NITE **BLUES** ★7 PM★ EVERY NITE

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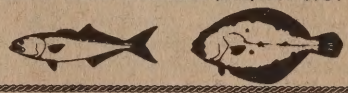

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First Traffic Light at Jack's Bait & Tackle

fair this past week with average tches 2-5 fluke per man. The boat is hing West channel, Ocean beach d East Channel on squid, killies and nd eels.

Carl at **Smokeys Bait & Tackle** tells that Mike Lackos of Bayshore while uking in Snake Hill Channel hooked d landed a 46 lb stingray on 15# test ne. It took 1½ hrs to get this guy in e boat. Mike is going to use the ings to create a winter's supply of esh sea scallops. Fluke at the North d of Snake Hill Channel was decent t and Sun on squid and sandeels. nappers are growing and it looks like good snapper year around the arina. Blue claw crabs in the bay, t small. A few bass under the Robt. osses Bridge and at the old nstruction dock on bunkers and live ls at night primarily. Blues and eaks from 2-4 lbs at Hecksher and lt Air on jelly worms and rebels. olled blues from 2-4 lbs in front of e Lighthouse and buoy 12 on the side. Carl weighed in 1½ lb porgy ken in West Channel on squid, he ys with concentration and a lot of ork you can buck it up on the orgies. On Sunday 2-6 lb blues were abundance at the whistler on nbrellas and diamonda jigs. Jumbo ues were SE of the NB in 135' of ater on umbrellas and hook blat. A w makos were caught SE of the NB so.

CAPTREE

Lady Ann called to say bluefish er the weekend still remained good E and SE of Fl Inlet in 80' of water. 5 bluefish were caught on Sat night 18 men using mostly mackeral and tterfish. Fluking is poor to fair but e fish we do catch are 2-4 lbs fishing Ocean Beach and West Channel on uid, killies and sandeels.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree een** says the fluking in his area is adually improving, especially the M trips at the end of the week. Most ips saw 40-70 keepers landed on the at per trip. Gordon says there ems to be an influx of new fish that ve moved in. Smaller fish are being ught from the bridge to the inlet d the entrance to the State Channel hile larger fish are at the W. Island rea, all on sandeels, spearing and llies.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. otty** reported that while the fluke shing is still picky, it seems that the shing is getting a little better. The at has been averaging two to four sh a man and the fluke seem to be read out all over the bay. Best tion has consistently been provided the flood tide. Saturday afternoon shing was very good, with a few ifts accounting for over 20 fluke ch. Night bluefishing was very good Wednesday, Thursday and Friday ith anglers averaging 8 to 10 each d some taking between 20 and 30. aturday night's bluefishing was ugh for unknown reasons. The blues n the gauntlet of sizes and you can

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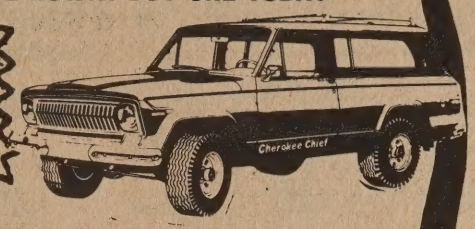

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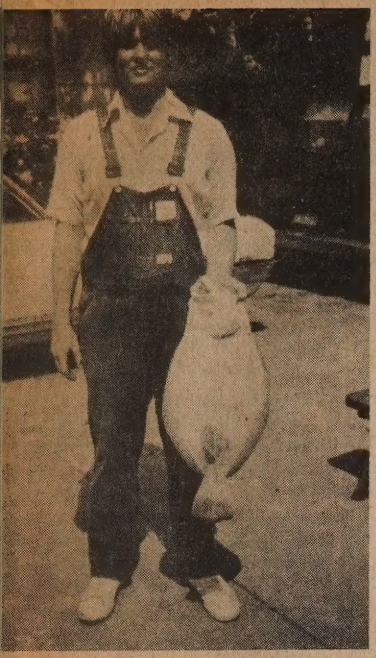

Raymond O'Leary, Jr., of East Meadow with a 7 lb. fluke taken aboard the "Capt. Ben Litwin" out of Captree.

schools of fish that are anywhere m 3 to 15 lbs. Best night action for blues has been on the 80 ft. shelf Patchogue Beach.

OAK BEACH

State Channel Marina West reports ues still in the inlet but you have to rk for them, watch for birds and ll around the outskirts of the nools so as not to spook them. uking has been only fair but John ys that he weighed in some 9½ and lb doormats this past week, in any se. Sharking has improved offshore th the numbers of monsters being y up.

BABYLON

Augies Bait & Tackle tells us that e Forge River Fishing Club held eir first shark tournament which as won by Frank Hoffman Sr & Jr on eir boat Jean Marie, with a 126 lb sky. The fish was worth $800 to em as 1st prize. **HOT NEWS ASH** . There has been a slaughter bass, blues and weaks right rough this past Mon mornign at rking field #9, Jones Beach. The h have chased a big school of tinker ackerel into the beach and surf sters are doing a leap job on these h. A 40 plus pounder was caught in e melee. The fish are hitting on ything you throw out to them says lores. We repeat-this is for you rfcasters - get out there quick! A 12 8 oz blue was caught at Cedar erlook on Sat night on a live eel. ts of bunker in the area. Bluefish tside at the Whistler with the ving schools being trolled and being taken on the bottom with diamond jigs and bananas. The fish are in close. 18 fluke were taken by Newsday's Frank Keating on Friday after Ski advised him to anchor and put down a chum pot full of bunker chum since the fluke are spread out. Frank did this at the head of Snake Hill Channel between buoys 4 and 5 and caught supper.

Charlies Fishing Station reports some fluke being taken by their skiffs in the State Channel in Grass Island. During the week Mrs. Sharp outfished her husband taking 5 keeper fluke on spearing and sandeels.

Mario at **Hi-Hook Fishing Station** says the best fluke concentrations this past week were at the north end of Snake Hill and Dickerson's Channel to the tune of 5-10 keepers per boat all week long on squid and sandeels. These were 2½-3 lb fish.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

LINDENHURST

The muskrat at **Charlies Bait and Tackle** reports a lot of fluke taken this past week at the Amityville Cut and Cop. Hole on sandeels, squid killies and luck. Plenty of bluefish from the whistler on out, mostly trolled on umbrellas. Big Cow bass at the construction dock on live eel, sand worms and live bunker, if you can get them. Lots of shark offshore, but they are at least 20 miles off the beach. Chopper blues from 10 miles on out. Loads of 3-4 inch snappers all over the bay areas.

The **Capt. Bob Fisher** reported that fluking was very good on Sat for both the norning and afternoon trips. Sun Fishing was a little slower. The average catch being about one half doz per man going 3 lbs. Areas being fished are Fl Inlet and State Channel off Gilgo.

Contributing writer to LIF, Don Avondolio called to tell us of his friend's daughter who took a 49 lb. striped bass off Cedar Beach. Young 10-year-old Amanda Frank took the big cow during broad daylight Saturday afternoon fishing a live eel from her father's boat, the "Pequod" and the fish was weighed in at **Charlie's Bait and Tackle.**

COPIAGUE

Jonas Bait & Tackle says that while the fluking has been poor to fair, the Copiague Hole has been producing small blues and weaks in the early morning hours on the #2 Hopkins. Lots of blues and shark offshore.

AMITYVILLE

George combs Bait & Tackle reports the fluke are spotty but increasing in number. Your best bet now would b e to anchor and chum with bunker chum. Blues are good on the outside trolled or diamond jigging. Sharks are far off the beach but there's a lot of 'em. A 4' Mako was brought in by Wayne (3 finger) Rakshys of Lindenhurst and his fish is being mounted by Fish Unlimited Taxidermy. Bass in the State Channel between Zacks bay and Tobay on eels, live bunker and live baby blackfish.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser Bait & Tackle reports the fluking has been slow, but the best catches of the week, be them as they may, came out of the Massapequa shoreline, Ft Neck Pt, Florence Beach, Squaw and West Islands. These are the most likely spots, with sand eels on the hook. Blues are absolute dynamite from the inlet on out by every conceivable manor of fishing, be it casting, bait

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fishing, jigging, squidding or trolling. Lots of snappers in the bay, but in only the 3-4 inch range. There are millions of them, stealing bait like crazy, but also growing very fast. Bas at the bridge on clam chum at night, with one customer bagging 5 stripers from 8-12 lbs on bellies.

Art at **Capt. Eddies Fishing Station** tells us that there has been some pretty good catches of fluke for his skiffs ranging from spotty to good along with some stray bluefish drifting from the bridge to Four Corners and at Massapequa Cove. The Squaw Island area has produced fish also, however, there are still no channel markers in the area at Squaw. Loads of bluefish offshore for the larger private boats.

WANTAGH

Frank at **Causeway Bait & Tackle** reports flounders being caught under the bridges, also at Swift and Long Creeks. Stripers on bunker and live eels at night in the bays. Fluke in Reynolds channel from the golf course through Debs. Plenty of blues offshore on diamond jigs off the golf ball with weaks mixed in on diamond jigs and on umbrellas. Bass blues and weaks being taken at West End and Field 6 at night from the beaches. It's bait at night and tins in the am and eveing hours. Bass up to 19 lbs have been taken this past week.

BELLMORE

Scott at **Merrick Marine Tackle Supply** reports plenty of bonito at the JI along with blues trolled Cedar jigs and black umbrella tubes are doing it. Tuna have been trolled at the Canyon and Mud Hole on cedar plugs red/white and white feathers and jet heads. Lots of makos from 140' on out. Bass in the bay on bunker. Catch of the weak was a 57 lbr taken by Jim Fallon off the Short Beach jetty on a floating rebel. Snappers are here and there. Pollack on the wrecks offshore on the big heavy jigs and flounder on worms off the Swift Creek houses.

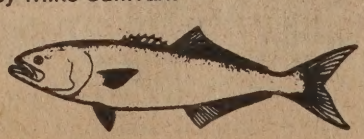
MERRICK

Nick's Fishing Station tells us that fluking has been picky but some fish have been taken in Carmens Cut and the channel at merrick Point and also by the Merrick Golf Course. Lots of midgets mixed in which must go back in the water. Some flounders still being caught in Swift Creek off the houses. Bass still around from Zacks Bay to the Wantagh Bridge. Dennis Newman took 3 nice bass on clam chum fishing the third Wantagh on Friday, 38 lb 8 oz, 20 lbs and 19 lbs 8 ozs. Blues have been super excellent from the inlet to Cholera. Fish have been taken from the very top through all depths, with birds being very helpful and all the usual accepted methods working. The Marjon took 2 Tuna fishing 60miles off the beach. These were 14 lb fish which fell to feathers. One rod busted clean off right at the butt and it is suspected that a Russian agent snuck aboard and snugged down the drag on this particular outfit. Jimmy cannot confirm this however. In any case something big hit the lure. Scott Harkoff had a 100 lb mako.

The infamous G. Korn while giving one of his monthly demonstrations on how to play a fish did a superb rendition of Old Man River on a 3½ lb ling. All within earshot agreed to the man, that he played the fish well.

BALDWIN

Arthur Street Fishing Station reports good blues SE of the inlet in 65' of water . The leader in his fluke pool was a 3 lb 9 oz fluke taken on killie squid combo from Middle Bay by Mike Sullivan.



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FREEPORT

The Capt. Lou II reports that he has good fluking all week staying with a new school of fish working Reynolds channel and Joens Inlet area. His largest fluke of the week went 5¼ lbs. They have been using squid, killie, and sandeel. Capt. Mike Danon says that hsi afternoon trips have been producing fish also with good turnouts of customers.

Capt. Joe Long's charterboat **Nite Owl** had Burt Lilly of North Bellmore and party out Saturday and they had a hundred and fifty lb mako while Sun's charter for Chip Winfield of New Windsor NY and party had 1 mako shark. This was in 135' of water.

Charterboat **Sea Hawk** called to tell us that mon's charter for Mr. McGuire had 4 blue shark 40-80 lbs an dropped 3 others on 30# class tackle. They also had 15 bluefish and this was 7 mi S of the HA. Tuesday's trip for Mr. Fyfe saw 53 bluefish from 3-10 lbs taken by 1 pm on white umbrellas 5 miles south of the inlet. Wed's charter for Mr. Gruber and 13 yr old John Werner resulted in a 40 lb blueshark, a 154 lb Mako, on 30# class tackle and a pot full of 10-15 lb bluefish. Sat's trip for Ken Bo resulted in 58 bluefish from 3-8 lbs on white umbrellas 5 mls SE of the inlet. 2-3 fish on at a time was common. Sun's charter for Mr. Pfifer at the 120' mark SE of the inlet saw 2 makos well over 300 lbs fought to the boat and lost. One was fought for an hr 45 mins only to have the hook spit out at the boat. This fish was estimated at 7' in length. The other mako was on for ½ hr before he snapped a leader at the boat. Capt. dennis was breathless with this report of 2 monsters in one day. He asked us to tell you that he still has a couple of August dates open.

Charterboat **Blue Fin II** called to tell us that on Tuesday he jigged blues SE of Cholera on the II working under birds, fish to 7 lbs. On Friday he ran to the SW and jigged bananas for blues to 14 lbs. Saturday Capt. Charlie Adams on the **Blue Fin** jigged blues just out of the inlet and was back at the dock before 1PM. Hi-hook was 35 blues. Sunday's trips saw less action due to the visability and they couldn't spot the birds easily but did manage catches of blues to 12 ar weaks to 8 lbs. Capt. Sy Karlin tel me he's using his boats radar to fir working birds and he says this seen to work in the fog.

Capt. Walter Scott of the **Acme** called to tell us that his charter f Cary Owens Inc of Commac arranged by Bill Kreisner sa great bluefishing, the best of th season, jigging blues at the JI Buoy Jones by 8 am and they had over 2(fish by 11 am. Arm weary and tire Walter moved to SE Ground anchored up, and they haled 10-12 fish jigging and chumming on th anchor. Bob Roper of Philip Morr Tobacco took the pool with a 15 l and won a tv set. Walt says this is th best and fastest local action he ha seen this year.

Charterboat **The Rogue** reported th last week in the LI Open Tournamer they had 9 blueshark up to 250 lbs ar about 18 bluefish up to 20 lb Sunday, Tracey Lehrer chartered ha day for blues and followed a scho from Jones Inlet to FI which resulte in 12 from 9-16 using diamond jig and Stan Gibbs popping plugs.

Dockmaster Bob Kay of the Freepo Boatmens Assocaition reports th everyone has been loading up c bluefish fishing between the JI buc and Cholera with weaks mixed in. A examples Bob said that the Capt. Jo on one day's charter had 81 blue from 10 to 12 lbs, 3 bonito, 3-5 lbs ar 40 weaks from 10-12 lbs in 50' water. **Mistress** carrying 3 people ha 86 blues from 6-8 lbs. Most of th boats in the association fishe Cholera for 10 lb class choppers. A methods took fish. Bob said differer schools of fish wanted differer methods, so stand advised. Loads fish went on the docks. The latest bo to join the association, **the Jay dee** captained by Frank Cositore took 383 lb Mako on Thursday fishing 4 miles off the beach.

Bill Maguire, Charles Redanz, Ron Conley, Palmer Howard, Joe Caluzo and Nick Lemone with their catch of blue sharks and bluefish up to 15 lbs., taken 7 miles south of the HA buoy aboard Capt. Dennis Kanyuk's "Sea Hawk."

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Charterboat **Shalidon** called to tell s about the 207 lb mako that he took 6 minutes last Saturday and the ozen blueshark he brought to the oat on Sunday (last Sunday) fishing) miles South of the HA buoy. This ast Thur's charter for Con Cerrone nd party resulted in 2 makos of 178 s and 125 lbs plus one blue shark a ttle south of the HA. Friday's harter for Doug Herbst and party agged a 160 lb mako plus a dusky nd blue which were released . aturday 4 more blues were tagged nd released. Arnold says the water mp is nearly 70 degrees and there re mucho makos out there and that it oks like a great season. The boat is ow taking only several open tuna ates, aside from that he is booked lld for the season. The boat is also ow taking advanced reservations for '9.

Anthony's Fishing Station reports uking picky, flounders still fairly ood at the CG Station, Meadowbrook ridge, Swift and Long Creek on orms and chum.

Charterboat **Apus** reports luefishing was excellent all week om small fish S of Jones Inlet in 40 ' f water to larger fish in 60 to 70' of ater. All the charters during the eek averaged 300-500 lbs of fish. Most of the fish were trolled on mbrellas and diamond jigs. Shark shing was also excellent with blue- hark and small makos. The heart- reak was a lrg mako that Richard Maccabe of Pt. Washington fought on 0 lb class line for 1 hr and 10 mins nd to have it break off at the gaff. he fish was between 400-600 lbs. It ade 8 spectacular leaps.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports ominick Sabella of Freeport Tuna lub caught a 30 lb striped bass shing with Max Horowitz on the IMI. Mike Latouraca and Tom lazur of Rutherford NJ fishing in

Barbara and Ron Harry with their catch of monster blues up to 15 lbs., taken on Lupo Squid at the HA buoy aboard Capt. Fion Lepper's "Kim" out of Atlantic Beach.

Ed's boat caught 36 fluke yesterday trolling the flats. Flukeing is best in the flats and by byoy 16 and 18 in Reynolds Channel. Flounder fishing is good by buoy 15 and Swift Creek. Plenty of small blues at the Jones Inlet buoy and just outside the inlet on tubes and by jigging.

The Marie III called to report that the Mutual of NY charter on Sat sailed SE of Jones Inlet in 50' of water headed originally to bottom fish off a wreck and spotted some blues and started jigging and caught about 50 up to 3-6 lbs. In the afternoon in the same vicinity, jigging and trolling caught more blues but larger, 12-15 lbs.

Scotty's Marina reports good flounder fishing at buoys 14 and 15. Many boats are taking 80 to 100 flatties from 3/4 to 2 lbs. Nyla Amato fished the flats with sand eels and produced 32 fluke from 1½ to 4 lbs. Irving Grossman took 75 bluefish from 5 ro 20 lbs. and six bonito in 90 ft. of water south of the Inlet. These fish took bucktails and umbrellas. Three to five pound bluefish can be found inshore in 30 to 40 ft. of water. Blackfish from 1-5 lbs., are taking fiddlers, green crabs and clams at the T Wreck, Rota Wreck and Meadowbrook Bridge.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina reports that the best action in the area is with the fluke. These fish are running up to 20 inches in length and are taking killies and squid at buoy 3, Duck Point and at the Atlantic Beach Coast Guard Station. Snappers made an appearance this past weekend and are being taken off local docks.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Sikpper Ronnie Lepper reports sharking is excellent on board his KIM and reports shark fishing excellent now, the best in 3 yrs. Many blue and mako shark and a lot of biggies. The water is warming fast now near 70 degrees. Duskies are starting to show. There are still mixed bass, blues and weaks at Breezy Pt being trolled on lupo umbrellas and on jigs. A few big bass at Rockaway underneath the bunkers. Ronnie had a white marlin on last week which hit a bunker and in its 4th jump landed smack on the 30# test line, breaking same.Plenty of blues all over the place.

Henning's Fishing Station reports that nice sized fluke up to 5 lbs. 10 oz. are being taken at buoy 3 in Reynold's Channel on squid, spearing and sand eels. Bluefish are plentiful in the inlet, but small in size. Plenty of mako sharks are being taken offshore at the HA buoy along with big chopper blues. A few bass are being taken under the Atlantic Beach Bridge at night on white bucktails with white pork rind. Weakfish are being picked up on Bingle Dandy lures at the Tin Can grounds. Small tinker mackerel running about 3" long made an appearance in this area this past weekend.

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JAMAICA BAY

T & G Bait and Tackle tells us of bass on the North and South Channel bridges on sandworms. This is mostly at night with some catches made during the day. A 19 lbr was taken by Daryl Huzior of Howard Beach on a sandworm fishing S.Channel bridge on Sat. morning. Fluke and porgies, fluke on sand eels, porties on sand worms at both north and south channel bridges. Blues off of the N. Channel bridge on bunker chunks on the bottom at high water.

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reports that 3-4 lb. bluefish are being taken in good numbers on bunker in Jamaica Bay. The North Channel Bridge was the hotspot for these fish. Fluke running up over 2 lbs. are taking killie, squid and sand eels at the north channel bridge and sand porgies are being taken throughout the bay.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **Big Mohawk II** reports that on Wednesday of last week, Policeman Joe Cembrale and party jigged 81

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Bill Getty of Bayside, on the right, fished aboard Captain Arnold's "Shalidon" and landed big blues five miles southeast of the HA Buoy. Paul Distefano, with sign, hooked a blue shark and took it home for the dinner table.

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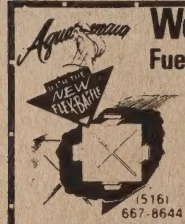

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SurfSide: bottom blues

(continued from page 14.)

Remember that the hook should enclosed within the loop of one enc the leader.

Fashion several leaders ahead time. They can be easily coiled a stored in your bag. If the fish deeply hooked or if the wire becon frayed, simply disconnect and snap another leader.

Leaders made of stainless steel piano wire will withstand the abuse sharp teeth indefinitely. They tak little more time and expertise fashion neatly. The wire must given several widely-gapped tw after forming your loop. Finish Good, now make several clos gapped twists back over the origi twists in the direction of the lo Break off by bending the wire b and forth across itself until it brea

The most pleasureable way to ca bluefish is with the use of popp plugs. The savage strike—and of the entire fish as he hits plug—can be seen. This is fine if blues are so inclined. More and m often these past few years, bait is means of last resort to lure th unrelenting fighters to the hook. M of the Island, with the poss exception of the rocky areas Montauk, can be leisurely fished b day and night from late summer i November. The baits used will t stripers, but in their absence th hard fighting, jumbo bluefish provide sufficient thrills to fill void.

lues from 3-5 lbs. fishing off of Jones nlet. Pool fish for the day ran up to 8 os. On Friday night, the boat fished he BA buoy and average catches of 6 o 10 fish per person from 12-14 lbs. ere taken on smelt. The boat has hoice weekday and a few weekend vening dates available. See Ad for etails.

The **New Zephyr** reports that the oat has been fishing off the Jersey oast and has been taking porgies to lbs., along with sea bass, blacks and few ling.

The **Pilot II** reports that the best shing action this weekend has been ith the ling. On Friday, the fishing as good for ling off the Rockaways. n Saturday, the fishing was poor, ut on Sunday the boat had good ling shing once again. Sea bass, black-sh and porgy action has been slow ver the weekend.

The **Elsie K III** reports that the eather slowed the fluke fishing over is past weekend in this area. The oat will begin sailing on Wednesday ight from 5 PM to 10 PM for luefish.

Sal at **Stella Maris Bait and Tackle** eports weaks very good at the jetty rea in the 5-6 lb range on umbrellas, orms, clam and jigs. Bass at Sandy ook, Romer Shoals, and the Breezy t jetty on umbrellas, jigs, worms, lam bellies. Fluke has improved from oney Island to Norton's Pt. From the erezanno Bridge to Nortons Pt big luefish are being taken on bunker hunks and smelts on the bottom. The ater is full of sand eels.

Capt. Joe Miller of the **Atomic II** eports that he is making good atches of fluke on the calm seas hich allow him to use his atomic ower to blast down to Seaside Park J where excellent fluking is being ad and where there are loads of andeels. The boat's 7 PM bluefish rips have been excellent joe ssays, oing down to Manesquan Ridge for uper catches for all fares. On Thurs. ight one passenger called it a day at nidnight with 35 choppers from 8-12 bs. It's a matter of chum and either ait and or bananas. Joe says this is here the main body of fish is. Weaks nd blues are right off Rockaway Inlet nd catches of these are being made hile fluking.

Capt. George of the **Helen H** eports that the bluefishing both day nd night trips have been good to very ood fishing Manesquan, farms and a ew other NY Bite areas. George says o one is getting skunked and the fish re inthe 4-16 lb range. Jigs and ananas work best days and at night s mostly bait. The PM trips are a ittle more consistent. The action is ood to a leap job. George said it ould be difficult for anyone **NOT** to atch bluefish right now.

Local sharpshooter Guy DiBlasio alled to tell us that the first weakfish re being taken drifting sand worms n hi-lo rigs and trolling umbrella rigs rom Sandy Hook to Princess Bay. On he New York side of Ambrose Channel to the rock jetties, anglers are taking a few bass and a lot of bluefish of mixed sizes while trolling umbrella rigs or casting Ava-27, Vi-Ke jigs or small white Bananas when the birds are working. Bass ranging from 6 to 10 and up to 21 lbs. are being taken at night trolling dark tubes and gorilla rigs along the shelf of the New York side of Ambrose Channel. Guy told us that there are a lot of grass shrimp and huge schools of sand eels and herring in the East and Hudson Rivers. Occasional small schools of bunker are also in the area with small bass feeding on them.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports that bass are being picked up off Cliff St., in the early morning on swimming plugs such as Gibbs Atom or Danny plugs. Outgoing tide to iow seems to be the best. Bluefish are being taken in the early morning from South Beach to Great Kills park on swimmers and poppers. These fish can be picked up on bunker after the morning action. Weakfish from 8 to 9 lbs., are taking worms at the 21 can at the VZ Bridge. The same size weakfish are being taken in Princess Bay on red and green Lancers along with 2-5 lb. bluefish. Fluke fishing has been good from South Beach to Princess Bay on sand eels and squid.

PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★
PORGIES

GREENPORT

The Wilhelric II reports that the porgy fishing off of Gardiner's Island has been good. High hook over the weekend took close to 90 fish from ½ to 2 lbs. On Saturday and Sunday, the average catch was 40 to 80 fish per person.

A. P. White Bait Shop reports that porgies up to 3 lbs. are taking clams and worms between Fisher's Island and the Connecticut shore. The **Brand X** is doing a good job on these porgies. Small bluefish from 2 to 3 lbs. are plentiful in the Ruins area and are being taken on diamond jigs. Some nice blackfish are being taken along the Sound shore and at Plum and Gull Island. These fish are taking fiddler, green crabs and sand worms.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt reported some of the boats made some nice catches of porgies at buoys 17 and 18 over the weekend. Other boats didn't do so well. On the Sound side, there's fluke

Vito Orlando and Jerry Bernard with bass to 35 lbs. and blues to 14 lbs., taken on Rebels. Both fishermen belong to the Farragut Striper Club.

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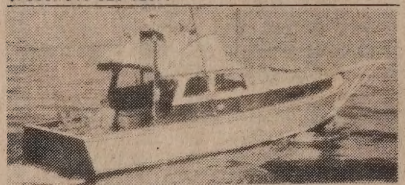

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at Truman Beach and porgies at Rocky Point. You can still catch a flounder or two on the north side of Orient out by the Point.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports that nice sized porgies in the small to 1½ lb. range are being picked up in the buoy 25-South Race area and in the Middle Grounds. A few weakfish averaging 5 lbs. are hitting porgy bait in the South Race. Kingfishing is starting to pick up in the area. James Parks of Brooklyn took 52 porgies averaging 3/4 of a lb. and two weakfish averaging 4 lbs. off the Middle Grounds on worms and skimmer clams.

JAMESPORT

Warren's Tackle Center reproted very good catches of porgies over the weekend. The fin went from pin size up to two pounders. A couple good spots were off the bungalows at Mattituck and off Reeves Beach by the wrecks. Bluefish are moving around day to day. Watch for the birds. An occasional bass being taken trolling umbrellas for blues or casting plugs from shore. There were some weaks at Horton's Point in the evenings last week taking plugs and rigs. One fellow out for blacks by the pipeline got himself an 8 lb. sea bass. In the bay, there were some nice catches of porgies by buoy 2 off Jamesport.

ROCKY POINT

Rocky Point Fishing Stop reports that weakfish averaging 5-7 lbs., with an occasional fish up to 13½ lbs., are being picked up all over the area, especially at buoys 11 and 9. These fish are being picked up on diamond jigs. Porgies can be taken along the Rocky Point beaches on sand worms. Nice sized fluke averaging 4 lbs. are being taken in the area of buoy 7 on sand eel and squid combos. Bluefish

Nick Savene and cousin Anthony Savene with their catch of over 30 weakfish and bluefish taken at buoys 28 and 29 in the South Race on white bucktails and Lupo shrimp. Photo courtesy of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

are all over the area and trollers are taking 2-5 lb. fish on light colored tubes. A few nice sized striped bass are being taken from the surf east of Wading River.

SAG HARBOR

Chris at Bayview Fishing Station reports that porgies are being brought back to the tune of 50-100 per skiff . Best areas are Meshomic, Kelleys and Cedar Point.

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NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★ BLUEFISH

MT. SINAI HBR.

Bob Sullivan of Yonkers took the lead in the Tri-Fin Lure Bluefish Contest with the 16 lb. bluefish he took at Mt. Sinai on a three ounce green Tri-Fin Sand Eel Jig and weighed in at **Ralph's Fishing Station**. The Tri-Fin Bluefish Contest runs through Labor Day and is open to anyone catching a blue on a Tri-fin lure.

Ralph's Fishing Station reports great bluefishing all over the Sound. These fish are running 3-6 lbs., are taking umbrellas, diamond jigs and Tri-Fin Sand Eel jigs. Weakfish averaging 8 lbs. are mixed in and a fluke of 9 lbs. 12 oz. was also taken while trolling for blues. Porgy fishing has been good all along the shore and fluke averaging 2-5 lbs. have been taking squid and sand eel combos.

PORT JEFFERSON

Caraftis Fishing Station reported Crane's Neck was the place for porgies. Last Sunday, blues and weaks hit all day long at buoy 11. Fluke are now worth the trip at Mt. Misery Shoal, off Flax Pond and outside the inlets if you can get to fish them. No reports of any concentrations of snapper blues.

Betty W reports a big upswing in blues and weaks just outside the harbor at the Mt. Misery Shoal. On Thursday blues and weaks were taken on the shoal and when the action taperd off they switched to porgies and all hands filled buckets with porgies up to 1½ lbs. Friday say 11 passengers take 155 blues and weaks by noon with porgies filling in the luls. Sat and Sun saw surface action slow down so they concentrated on Porgies west of Pt Jeff a large body of fish 1½ - 2½ lbs moved in on Sunday. The porgis are hitting worm and clam. The blues and weaks want diamond jigs. There's not a lot of bird activity.

Stan Hentschel and Jerry McGrath with bluefish up to 7 lbs. taken at buoy 5 on surface plugs. Photo courtesy of the Rocky Point Fishing Stop.

KINGS PARK

Bob at **Mae's Way Fishing Station** reports red hot bluefishing all week. These fish are being taken at the mouth of the river near the NR buoy and for several days, the school stayed on the surface for the entire day. Catches of 25 to 35 fish were not uncommon for private boats working out of the Ramp. On Saturday, Dave Spindell jigged 8 weakfish to 10 and 8 blues to 6 lbs. On Sunday, Vincent Salvato took a rental out for a few hours and returned with a dozen bluefish, half taken on Poppers and the rest on wire and tube lures. On Saturday, the charter boat **Stormy Petrel** returned with over 50 blues for his day's catch.

HUNTINGTON

Capt. Don of the **Ever Ready** called to say 1½ minutes into the target zone on Sat's blue run the 1st blue was taken and blues were taken throughout the remainder of the trip. Sun's run also caught blues and Fred Knoph and Steve Forte had a pair of 9 lbrs the largest blues of the weekend. Capt Don would like to remind everyone that Tues and Thurs blue runds have been added from 7-11 PM next week 2 full day blue runs will be added on WEd and Fri 8-13. Bottom runs will be restricted to Sat & Sun at 8-12 noon only after this week.

Four Winds Tackle reports that bluefish from 3-7 lbs., with occasional fish over 10 lbs., are being taken at buoy 15 and at Eaton's Neck at the obstruction buoy. These fish are taking wire lined umbrellas, Ava-27s, and Tri-Fin Sand Eel Jigs. Weakfish from 6-11 lbs. are mixed in with these catches. When the bluefish hit the surface, Kastmasters, Hopkins and Tri-Fin Eel Worms are doing the trick. An occasional striped bass is being taken in the Rips off Eaton's Neck on umbrellas and bucktails. Betsy Curth fished a mackerel chunk off Eaton's Neck and produced a 22½ lb. bass. Porgies are being taken in fair numbers inside the bays on worms and clams. Snappers are starting to show in the harbors. Fluke up to 4 lbs. are taking sand eel and squid combos on the Sound side at Ashroken.

Charterboat **Foxy Lady** called to report this past week's bluefishing continujed strong in LI Sound with charters getting anywhere from 30-75 fish in the 5-6 lb range with a stra weak mixed in. Capt. Tony says h still has some choice dates available see ad for details.

NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★ BLUEFISH

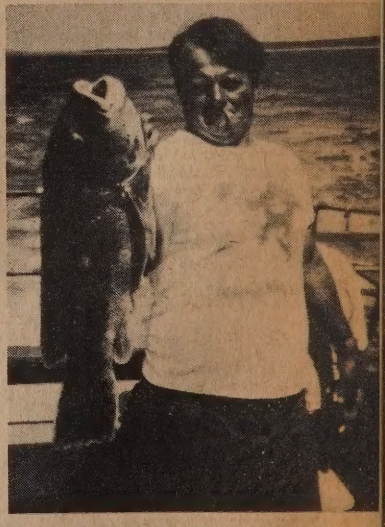
BAYVILLE

Norm's Bait and Tackle repor great bluefishing in the area. Thes fish are running from 3½ lbs. up to 1 and are taking umbrellas, banana and jigs. A few small snappers a showing in Oyster Bay harbor. Porg fishing has been fair at the Cent Island Reef and Oyster Bay harbo Weakfish are being trolled up wi the blues off Lloyd's Neck, Fox Poi and Oak Point.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait Shop reported the porg fishing is good one day, but poor th next. The better fishermen ar getting some bass to 12 lbs., aroun Hart's Island. The hot tip right now the blues which are moving aroun from Hart's Island to the east. Ov the weekend, the Hempstead-Gle Cove area was hot. Jigging, trollir and baiting are producing. The seems to be two schools of fish from to 5 and then 12 to 15 lbs.

The Ebb Tide reports that they a having good catches of flound fishing the Ct side and also sprinkling of blacks. The flounder a 1-2 lbrs and taking sandworms.



Mike Pippi won the pool again on the City Island party boat "Ebb Tide," this time with a 9¼ lb. black.

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Modern Saltwater Sportfishing

by Frank Woolner

Salt Water Sportsman's famed editor has put it all together in one complete, entertaining and educating volume. From knots and terminal tackle to surf, boating, bay and pier techniques. From flounder and fluke to striped bass, snook and giant tuna, this book has it all. Woolner's easy to read style will make this one of the favorites on your book shelf. *365pgs., illus.*

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The Captain's Cookbook

by Capt. Walter Kaprielian

Captain Walter Kaprielian of Montauk compiled, edited, wrote, designed and illustrated this wonderful book on simple, but delicious, recipes for the novice to cook his catch. Beautifully illustrated by the author with step-by-step diagrams, so easy to follow that Stu Miller can cook! *212 large 8½x11" pages, illus.*

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Best Ways To Catch More Fish

by Vlad Evanoff

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HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	8:37	8:59	9:18	9:43	9:15	9:35	10:05	10:22	—	12:14	11:58	—	8:29	8:52	7/20
FRI.	9:29	9:50	10:12	10:35	10:10	10:28	10:58	11:17	12:29	1:09	12:18	12:51	9:21	9:44	7/21
SAT.	10:22	10:42	11:06	11:27	11:06	11:24	11:51	—	1:24	2:03	1:12	1:43	10:12	10:35	7/22
SUN.	11:16	11:36	—	12:01	—	12:03	12:10	12:46	2:21	2:56	2:05	2:36	11:04	11:27	7/23
MON.	—	12:09	12:21	12:57	12:19	12:57	1:05	1:42	3:17	3:54	3:00	3:32	11:57	—	7/24
TUE.	12:27	1:02	1:14	1:53	1:13	1:50	2:04	2:41	4:18	4:55	3:56	4:28	12:19	12:52	7/25
WED.	1:20	1:55	2:12	2:54	2:06	2:42	3:06	3:42	5:27	6:00	4:57	5:25	1:14	1:50	7/26
THUR.	2:13	2:48	3:11	3:53	2:59	3:35	4:09	4:43	6:36	7:05	5:56	6:24	2:10	2:47	7/27

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	— 0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	— 0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	— 0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	— 0 12
Seaside Park	— 0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	— 0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	— 0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	— 0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	— 0 02
Rehoboth Beach	— 0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	— 0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	— 0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	— 0 38
Democrat Point	— 0 38
Coast Guard Station	— 0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	— 0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	— 0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	— 0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	— 0 08
Herod Point	— 0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	— 0 20
Truman Beach	— 0 42
Falkner Island	— 0 13
Sachem Head	— 0 10
Branford Harbor	— 0 07
New Haven Harbor	— 0 08
Milford Harbor	— 0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	— 0 03
Saugatuck River	— 0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	— 0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	— 0 14
Montauk Inlet	— 0 25
Montauk Point	— 1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	— 0 33
Noank, Mystic River	— 0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	— 0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	— 0 10
Execution Light	— 0 06
Manhasset Bay	— 0 01
Hempstead Harbor	— 0 11
City Island	— 0 03
Rye Beach	— 0 28
Port Chester	— 0 09
Mamaroneck	— 0 08
New Rochelle	— 0 24
Davids Island	— 0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	— 0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	— 0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	— 0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	— 0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	— 0 08
Point Judith Harbor	— 0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	— 0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

7/5	5:30	8:39
7/10	5:33	8:37
7/15	5:37	8:34
7/20	5:41	8:31
7/25	5:46	8:26
7/30	5:51	8:21

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
7/5	7/13	7/20	7/26

The Original Knight

SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	5:05	—	5:45	**12:05**
Fri.	6:15	**12:35**	6:50	**1:10**
Sat.	7:25	**1:40**	7:50	**2:10**
Sun.	8:25	**2:40**	8:50	**3:05**
Mon.	9:20	**3:35**	9:45	**4:00**
Tues.	10:15	**4:30**	10:40	**4:55**
Wed.	11:10	**5:15**	11:25	**5:40**
Thurs.	11:55	**6:00**	—	**6:20**

TODAY THROUGH TUESDAY (JULY 25th)

DAIWA'S FINEST OCEAN SPINNING COMBINATIONS

TSS

G.J. SEEDMAN, Chairman
H.R. DIETZ, President

Save $40

THE SUPERB TTW ALL ROLLER TROLLING ROD

TSS TRUE USUAL 99.99

59.99

EASY PAYMENT TERMS

- Tournament triple wall blank
- Aftco roller guides and tip (6)
- 6'6" all glass through
- Stainless steel reel seat
- Hypalon grips
- Chrome on brass gimbal
- 20-30 lb. class with the feel of a 30-50 lb. class rod
- Outperforms on 80 lb. class rod

TSS SPORTING GOODS DEPT.

Save 39.99

OCEAN SPINNING OUTFITS TTW TOURNAMENT TRIPLE WALL ROD PLUS SS SERIES SKIRTED SPOOL REEL

- 'TTW' tournament triple wall rod, strongest tournament grade rod available, #TTW 200 and deluxe SS3000 skirted spool spinning reel
- Fugi dialoy insert guides
- All glass through triple thickness tubular blank
- Three times stronger pulling power
- Double locking stainless steel reel seat
- Hypalon grip • Hi-speed retrieve
- Triple ball bearing • Left to right retrieve
- Teakwood handle • Etched spool murals
- 250 yds. 15-lb. test capacity

TSS TRUE USUAL 109.98

69.99

EASY PAYMENT TERMS

Save 39.99...EXTRA HEAVY TRIPLE TOURNAMENT OCEAN MODEL ROD PLUS REEL

- SS4000 reel (250 yds. 17 lb. capacity)
- TTW 300 rod

TSS TRUE USUAL 129.98

89.99 EASY PAYMENT TERMS

TSS MAJOR DEPT. STORES OPEN MON. THRU SAT. 9:30 A.M. TO 9:30 P.M. SUNDAY 11 A.M. TO 5 P.M...FREE PARKING

•MIDDLE VILLAGE, QUEENS •LINDEN BLVD., BKLYN.
•ELMONT •HEMPSTEAD •LEVITTOWN
TSS MALL/MELVILLE •LAWRENCE •OCEANSIDE
•BABYLON •SAYVILLE •MIDDLE ISLAND

We guarantee to supply every item advertised to every customer in reasonable quantities.

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- TSS CHARGE PLAN
- MASTER CHARGE
- VISA/BANKAMERICARD

TSS NEIGHBORHOOD STORES OPEN EVENINGS:

ASTORIA 36-01 Broadway, Astoria, Queens (OPEN SUN. 11-5)
SHEEPSHEAD BAY 3720 Nostrand Ave., Bklyn. (OPEN SUN. 11-5)
BAY RIDGE 6221 Fourth Ave. & 63rd St., Bklyn. (OPEN SUN. 11-5)
SPRINGFIELD GARDENS Merrick & Farmers Blvds., Queens (SUN. 9-3)
FLUSHING 136-18 Northern Blvd. near Main St., Queens
MASPETH 66-17 Grand Avenue, Queens
RIDGEWOOD 60-36 Myrtle Ave., Ridgewood, Queens